

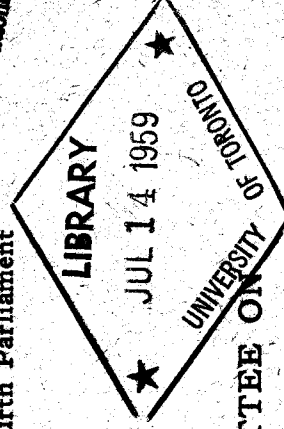
CA1  
XC2  
-1959  
B65

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Second Session—Twenty-fourth Parliament

1959

Government  
Publications



SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
**BROADCASTING**

Chairman: G. E. HALPENNY, Esq.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE

No. 17

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1959

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

WITNESS:

The Honourable George Nowlan, Minister of National Revenue.

THE QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY  
OTTAWA, 1959

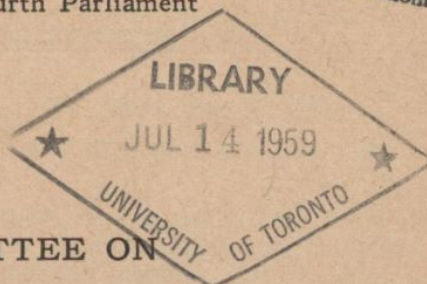
CA1  
XC2  
- 1959  
B65

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Second Session—Twenty-fourth Parliament

1959

Government  
Publications



SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON

# BROADCASTING

*Chairman:* G. E. HALPENNY, Esq.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE

No. 17

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1959

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

WITNESS:

The Honourable George Nowlan, Minister of National Revenue.

THE QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY  
OTTAWA, 1959

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BROADCASTING

*Chairman:* G. E. Halpenny, Esq.,

*Vice-Chairman:* J. Flynn, Esq.,

and Messrs.

Miss Aitken,  
R. A. Bell (*Carleton*),  
Tom Bell (*Saint John-  
Albert*),  
Brassard (*Lapointe*),  
Mrs. Casselman,  
Chambers,  
Dorion,  
Eudes,  
Fairfield,  
Fisher,  
Forgie,

Fortin,  
Johnson,  
Kucherepa,  
Lambert,  
Macquarrie,  
Mitchell,  
Morris,  
Muir (*Lisgar*),  
McCleave,  
McGrath,  
McIntosh,  
McQuillan,

Nowlan,  
Paul,  
Pickersgill,  
Pratt,  
Richard (*Ottawa East*),  
Robichaud,  
Simpson,  
Smith (*Calgary South*),  
Smith (*Simcoe North*),  
Taylor,  
Tremblay.

J. E. O'Connor,  
*Clerk of the Committee.*



CAI  
XC 2  
-1959  
B65

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, July 2, 1959.

The Special Committee on Broadcasting met at 9.30 a.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Halpenny, presided.

*Members present:* Miss Aitken, Messrs. Bell (*Carleton*), Bell (*Saint John-Albert*), Brassard (*Lapointe*), Mrs. Casselman, Messrs. Chambers, Dorion, Fisher, Flynn, Fortin, Halpenny, Johnson, Kucherepa, Lambert, Morris, Muir, (*Lisgar*), McCleave, McGrath, McIntosh, McQuillan, Nowlan, Pickersgill, Paul, Richard (*Ottawa East*), Robichaud, Smith (*Calgary South*), Taylor and Tremblay. (28)

*In attendance:* Mr. Charles Jennings, Controller of Broadcasting, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, assisted by Messrs. M. Henderson, Comptroller; J. P. Gilmore, Controller of Operations; Marcel Carter, Controller of Management Planning and Development; Marcel Ouimet, Deputy Controller of Broadcasting; R. C. Fraser, Director of Public Relations; R. E. Keddy, Director of Organization; J. J. Trainor, Assistant to Director of Audience Research; Barry MacDonald, Secretary, Board of Directors; and J. A. Halbert, Assistant Secretary, Board of Directors.

The Chairman observed the presence of quorum and read into the record a letter dated June 30th received from Mr. Barry MacDonald, Secretary to the Board of Directors, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, to which was attached a statement by the Board urging the reconsideration of the Committee's Order of June 2nd for the production of certain information concerning television costs.

Mr. Pickersgill raised a point of order relating to meetings of the Committee and Sub-committee on Agenda and Procedure on Tuesday, June 30th.

Moved by Mr. Pickersgill, seconded by Mr. Robichaud,

*That*, "The Committee invite Mr. W. L. Morton of the Board of Directors and Mr. Hallman, Director of English Radio Networks to appear before the Committee at the earliest possible date to give evidence on the matter which was before the Committee on June 30th."

and debate arising, at 11.00 a.m. the Committee recessed in order that members might attend the opening of this day's sitting in the House of Commons.

At 11.30 a.m. the Committee reconvened and following further debate Mr. Pickersgill's motion was resolved in the negative, NAYS: 16; YEAS: 5.

On motion of Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Robichaud,

*Resolved*,—That Mr. Nowlan be invited to come and inform the Committee on the "advice" he gave Mr. Bushnell on programming.

The Committee then turned to further consideration of the letter and statement received from the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Mr. Fisher moved, seconded by Mr. Robichaud,

*That*, the request for financial figures on T.V. programming be referred to the House of Commons for decision.



The Chairman ruled the motion out of order on the grounds that the Committee had been empowered to send for persons, papers and records, and that the adoption of such a motion would be an evasion of the Committee's responsibilities.

Mr. McCleave, seconded by Mr. Smith (*Calgary South*), moved,

That the Committee is of the opinion no new reasons have been advanced by the C.B.C. Board of Directors that the Committee should change its original decision, and that their formal request be rejected.

Following discussion Mr. McCleave, by leave, withdrew the motion.

On motion of Mr. Bell (*Saint John-Albert*), seconded by Mr. Smith (*Calgary South*),

Resolved, That the letter and statement from the Board of Directors, previously identified, be filed.

At 12.40 p.m. the Committee adjourned to meet again at 3.15 p.m. this day.

#### AFTERNOON SITTING

The Special Committee on Broadcasting reconvened at 3.15 p.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Halpenny, presided.

*Members present:* Miss Aitken, Messrs. Bell (*Carleton*), Bell (*Saint John-Albert*), Brassard (*Lapointe*), Mrs. Casselman, Messrs. Chambers, Dorion, Fisher, Flynn, Fortin, Halpenny, Johnson, Kucherepa, Lambert, Mitchell, Muir (*Lisgar*), McCleave, McGrath, McIntosh, Pickersgill, Robichaud, Smith (*Calgary South*), Taylor and Tremblay. (24)

*In attendance:* The same witnesses from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as appeared at the morning sitting.

The Chairman read to the Committee the motion adopted at this morning's sitting, calling for the invitation of Mr. Nowlan to attend the Committee's sitting.

Mr. Nowlan was introduced, questioned by members of the Committee, thanked and retired.

Pursuant to the Committee's motion of June 2nd concerning the tabling of costs of television productions, cost sheets relating to the first week of March, 1959 on the English network, and the fourth week of March on the French network, were tabled and copies distributed to members.

Agreed, That answers to questions asked by Messrs. Dorion, Smith (*Calgary South*) and McCleave on June 18th and June 19th be included as appendices to this day's Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence.

At 4.10 p.m. the Committee adjourned to meet again at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 7th, 1959.

J. E. O'Connor,  
Clerk of the Committee.



NOTE: *Text of the Proceedings recorded in the French language appears immediately following this day's Evidence.*

REMARQUE: *Le texte des témoignages recueillis en français figure immédiatement à la suite du compte rendu des délibérations de la séance d'aujourd'hui.*

## EVIDENCE

THURSDAY, July 2, 1959.  
9.30 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Chairman, I rise—

The CHAIRMAN: Just a moment, please, Mr. Pickersgill; I have a letter in which I think you would be very, very interested. It is over the signature of Mr. Barry MacDonald, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the C.B.C. It is dated June 30, 1959 and addressed to myself.

Dear Mr. Halpenny:

On June 2nd last the parliamentary committee on broadcasting, by committee vote, instructed the corporation to submit detailed costs for all C.B.C. network television programs for a period of one month. In the case of commercial programs this was to include the amount of recovery from the sponsor. The required material for the first week of the month in question is now ready for submission to the committee.

The board of directors, at its regular meeting last week, reviewed this matter and expressed grave concern at the possible effect upon the corporation's future commercial operations of the publication of the requested information. Accordingly, the board wishes to make a formal request that the committee reconsider its decision, at least in so far as publication and public consideration of the information in question is concerned.

A statement setting forth the carefully considered views of the corporation as to the disadvantage of making the required information public is attached. The corporation will, of course, follow the wishes of the committee but it asks that the possible consequences of this committee action be considered again before a final step is taken.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sgd) Barry MacDonald  
Secretary—Board of Directors

Now, gentlemen, the statement reads:

The corporation's stated policy, endorsed—

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Chairman, I am rising to a point of order.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, your point of order.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: My point of order is this, Mr. Chairman, that at the meeting of the steering committee which was held prior to the last meeting of this committee certain decisions were taken, and my point of order is that this



decision taken by the steering committee unanimously, which the chairman undertook to carry out, was not carried out and the discussion by the committee was choked off by the chairman asking for a motion to adjourn, getting a motion to adjourn from the supporters of the government, and thereby preventing debate on the point that the chairman himself had made. It seems to me that now that there is no motion preventing us from speaking before the committee, that I should be allowed to point out that we believe we have the right to have the decision of the steering committee carried out.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pickersgill, do you not think that you could hold that until I read the statement?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I am prepared to do that, Mr. Chairman, if you will hear me afterwards.

The CHAIRMAN: By all means, and then we can come back to your point of order.

The statement reads:

The corporation's stated policy, endorsed by parliament and the Royal Commission on Broadcasting 1957, is to invite sponsorship of live Canadian programs.

While in the main advertisers use television to carry advertising messages for their product, as efficiently and economically as possible, there are some Canadian advertisers who, as a matter of public relations, wish to be associated with programs produced in Canada.

It has been recognized that with the exception of a few, less elaborate types of production, the full cost of television programs cannot be recovered from sponsors.

The sale of C.B.C. live produced programs at the highest price that the market will bear, but at less than full cost, can however be misinterpreted as a subsidy, by the corporation to an advertiser. Seen purely from the point of view of corporation expenditure and income, the C.B.C.'s dealings with major sponsors of live programs will invariably present a picture of deficit. Conversely, in its dealings with competitive advertisers who sponsor imported programs, the corporation's books show a profit. This is true of almost every field; we have deficit dealings with one automotive manufacturer and profitable dealings with his chief competitor. The same applies to electrical, soap, food and other industries.

The publication of these figures may thus result in unfavourable publicity for the firms sponsoring live programs, as to an uninformed public it will appear that the corporation favours these advertisers over their competitors.

In so far as the sponsor of a live program is maintaining a relationship with the corporation, in accordance with the corporation's established policies, such a sponsor may reasonably expect the corporation to resist the publication of his financial relationship with the corporation in a manner or context which could harm his prestige before the public, or with a competitor in the same field.

Additionally, the publication of such figures will make sponsors generally more reluctant to become associated with live programs with the attendant possibility of similar unfavourable publicity in the future.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I feel that this is a very serious matter.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): Mr. Chairman, may I—

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Has the reading of the statement been completed, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Pickersgill, you are on a point of order.



Mr. PICKERSGILL: My point of order is that the steering committee made a decision, which I will briefly recall, and if the chairman wants to dissent he can interrupt me.

At the meeting held during the luncheon adjournment on Tuesday our decision was that we would hear Mr. Walker, Mr. Hallman, Mr. Jennings and Mr. Bushnell, and then we would hear again, if any member of the committee desired to do so, the three witnesses who were invited to appear originally. Now, it will be recalled that we did not hear Mr. Hallman at all.

The CHAIRMAN: Because there was a motion from the floor at that time, if I might interrupt, there was a motion to call Mr. Jennings at that time and you agreed to the motion.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Oh yes, I did not dissent, but it never occurred to me and I do not think it would have occurred to any reasonable person that in calling Mr. Jennings we were excluding the possibility of calling Mr. Hallman. It never occurred to me there was any particular sanctity about the order in which they were to be called. I had certain questions I wanted to put to Mr. Hallman and I understood, according to the decision of the steering committee, that I would have that right. I am sure other members felt the same way.

In so far as Mr. Bushnell is concerned, I admit—and I am still of this view—I had no more questions to ask that day. In fact, personally I do not think there is any more useful testimony to be got from Mr. Bushnell; but, that is my personal opinion. However, I do know, because they have spoken to me, that there are other members of the committee who at the time the adjournment took place still wished to ask questions, which I think any reasonable person would say were completely relevant.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you referring to members of the press or to members of the committee?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: To members of the committee.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): Why did they not say so?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Because we were told that a motion to adjourn was not debatable.

The CHAIRMAN: The Queen was arriving at that time.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: That was at twenty minutes to five; I looked at the clock. The Queen arrived about ten minutes after seven. She was not due until a quarter to seven. Whatever else we may say about this matter, to introduce so feeble an excuse as that—after all, it is one of the traditions of parliament that parliament does not interrupt its business for royalty, and if you go back to Charles I, you will see that is the basic principle.

An hon. MEMBER: Do not be ridiculous.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I am not being ridiculous. I am replying to the ridiculous statement that was made and I do not want to pursue that further because it seems irrelevant. My view is that we should resume. I admit we cannot do it immediately this morning, because the witnesses are not here—but at the next meeting of the committee we should resume and we should have in attendance the people who were in attendance on Tuesday, and in that way should complete the inquiry that was interrupted in the arbitrary way in which it was interrupted on Tuesday; and certainly we should hear Mr. Hallman, whom several of us want to question, and that we should have the possibility of having Mr. Peers appear before us again, if any member wants him.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Does anybody?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: That can be found out. This point of order I am sure is debatable, and I intend subsequently—and I give notice of that now; the chairman will know about it—to make a motion that we invite Mr. W. L. Morton of the board of directors of the C.B.C. to appear, because we were told by



Mr. Peers that this group of employees went to see Mr. Morton and that Mr. Morton took their case up before the board of directors, and that the board of directors had two meetings about it.

The CHAIRMAN: In the interests of saving time, Mr. Pickersgill, would you like to make your motion right now?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: No, I think it would be better to have the point of order settled first, and then I can make my motion later. I will not make any further speech about it—

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): What is the point of order?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: The point of order—and for the benefit of Mr. Bell, I will repeat it—is that the steering committee made a unanimous decision, which the chairman undertook to carry out, and that the chairman—of his own motion—changed that decision and brought the proceedings to an abrupt end and announced that we would not continue.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Surely the committee did that; the chairman cannot adjourn the committee?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Perhaps Mr. Bell will reply to me—in accordance with parliamentary procedure—when I have finished. I say that if Mr. Bell prefers to say that the committee did it, that is all right; I will not argue that point. I will, however, make a comment about it. I will say that it appears much worse than I was making it appear: it appears there was, therefore, some concerted effort on the part of the majority in this committee to make a motion, which was not debatable—

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Ridiculous.

Mr. PICKERSGILL:—to impose closure on the committee and adjourn its proceedings.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): That is what you say.

Mr. LAMBERT: You complied with the motion.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Well, the vote was taken. Those who wished to dissent were not allowed to proceed. I rose to dissent and was choked off by the chairman; Mr. Fisher also rose, and was choked off by the chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: It does not say that here.

Mr. LAMBERT: You said you complied with the motion.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I had no choice. I obey the rules, and have obeyed the rules of the house and the committee, and I recognize the chairman was technically right when he said a motion to adjourn was not debatable. But I say the chairman was not doing his duty—as we have a right to expect him to do it—when he invited, from the floor, at a time when it was obvious there were still people wishing to ask questions, a motion to adjourn.

The CHAIRMAN: In my own defence, if I may, please.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Certainly, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: On page 563:

The CHAIRMAN: Did I hear a motion. Mr. Chambers.

The CHAIRMAN: Then you got up and said, “Mr. Chairman—”, and I said:

A motion to adjourn is not debatable.

The CHAIRMAN: Then you said:

Who made the motion?

The CHAIRMAN: Then I said:

I said Mr. Chambers made the motion and Mr. McGrath seconded it.

The CHAIRMAN: Then you said—you always agree, you know:

Then I will comply with it.



Mr. PICKERSGILL: That is right: I could not do anything else.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot see anything unorthodox or wrong about that.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: No. I say, according to the technical interpretation of the rules—I am not making anything of that—

The CHAIRMAN: Once again, could we get to the point of order?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: My point of order is that the steering committee's decision—which was accepted by the chair—was not carried out and that this committee should resolve now to carry it out and to complete the hearings that were terminated abruptly on Tuesday.

Mr. CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak to the point of order, and I will stick just as closely to the point of order as Mr. Pickersgill has—which gives me a great deal of leeway. In the first place, on the question of the adjournment it will be noticed in the proceedings, on page 561, some minutes—I would say, about five or ten minutes—before we adjourned Mr. Smith asked for the time of the adjournment; and while it does not appear in that order, before you said, "Did I hear a motion for an adjournment?", I did make a motion. There was a great deal of commotion going on in the committee, and the reporters perhaps did not record it. But I would like to refute the charge against the chair, that the motion was made by the chair. It was not; I made it.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: If the record shows you did not make that, I withdraw.

The CHAIRMAN: I knew you would.

Mr. CHAMBERS: On the question of calling witnesses, we in this committee have a great responsibility. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, in the proceedings on Tuesday, was shown to be in a very difficult situation, and I think that as—I believe it to be true—all members of this committee believe that it is essential that the C.B.C. be preserved and, if possible, strengthened...

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. CHAMBERS: ...we should be very careful in any actions we might take that will further demoralize the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. I suggest the course suggested by Mr. Pickersgill would do exactly that.

We took the evidence at our last meeting, starting with those who had made a charge, or laid a complaint—or whatever way it wants to be put—and we followed that evidence exactly. One group named someone else from whom they had the information; the next person named someone else from whom he had information; we called him, and finally it came to the acting president, and we heard him. We started at the bottom and, without any deviation, we went right to the top.

In my reading of the evidence, the only other witnesses that could be called would be only people to give hearsay evidence on conversations that they had overheard, and evidence parallel to that which we have already heard.

Mr. Chairman, in the circumstances—and with the additional fact that the three witnesses who appeared before us first the other day are now back in the employment of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and that Mr. Hallman, who was suggested in this motion, is now back—or, has never left the employ of the corporation—and since Mr. Pickersgill on previous occasions has said that the duty of a parliamentary committee is to speak to those responsible for the administration of the corporation and not to dig down and ask opinions from employees on the management, I think we would be doing a real disservice to the corporation, to parliamentary procedure and to this committee, if we at this time acceded to Mr. Pickersgill's request.



The fact that we did agree in the steering committee to call Mr. Hallman has to be, naturally, admitted; but Mr. Pickersgill will agree that at that time we had no idea what trail this evidence was going to lead us upon. And we included Mr. Hallman because we felt he might have been one of the links in the chain. There is nothing in the evidence given to us the other day to show that Mr. Hallman was one of the links in the chain, or that he could add anything useful to the deliberations of this committee. I believe it is our duty now to get on as fast as possible and complete our inquiries, so we can give a useful report and, perhaps, take more effective action to improve the situation that appears to exist in the C.B.C.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a correction—I left it till Mr. Chambers was finished—about a position he said I took earlier on in this committee. The position I took earlier on in this committee was that in regard to questions of internal management and organization of the C.B.C., we could not discipline individuals; that was for management. But I would like to remind the chair that what we are including here is not internal affairs; it is an external pressure upon the C.B.C. by the government, or by someone in the government...

Mr. LAMBERT: Just a minute: withdraw that.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I will not withdraw that; I will support it.

Mr. CHAMBERS: Was the pressure on Mr. Hallman?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I do not know whether the pressure was on Mr. Hallman. We were told by three witnesses in succession that they were—it was conveyed to them by Mr. Bushnell that there was pressure on Mr. Bushnell by someone who had the capacity to make the head of the Minister of National Revenue roll. There is only one person to whom that can apply in this whole country.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): This is an assumption you have no right to make.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: That person is the Prime Minister, and it is perfectly obvious.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): That is the most irresponsible, idle gossip we have ever heard.

Mr. FLYNN: An irresponsible statement.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you through, Mr. Pickersgill?

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Are you making the charge that the Prime Minister did it?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: No.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Irresponsible, idle chatter.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you made your point, Mr. Pickersgill?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: No, I have not made my point.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, what is your point?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: My point is that what we were examining on Tuesday was an allegation of external pressure—external pressure—from a political source; that in the course of the evidence that was produced before us we were told that that external pressure—

Mr. CHAMBERS: All of which was hearsay.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I would like to say one word on this nonsense about "hearsay". Everything one learns from another is, of course, hearsay; but when you are told by your superior something has happened, that is obviously evidence within the ordinary meaning of the term.



This "smearsay" of hearsay is just another of the tactics used to try to divert us from the real point which is before this committee.

The CHAIRMAN: But here top management denies all that.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: There is no denial, and that is my precise point. Mr. Bushnell in his evidence, at page 566—if the hon. members will turn to it, they will find I put three specific questions to Mr. Bushnell.

Mr. FORTIN: Read the questions, please.

The CHAIRMAN: What page is that again, Mr. Pickersgill?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Page 566—no, page 556.

Mr. McINTOSH: Are we past the point of order?

The CHAIRMAN: No, I want to give Mr. Pickersgill one more minute.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Give him every opportunity; he will hang himself.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pickersgill, please?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I will continue, sir. At page 556 I started to ask a question, and the chairman asked me if I would stand. I said I would be very glad to stand.

Then I went on:

I would like to ask Mr. Bushnell whether the Prime Minister spoke to him about this program at any time, formally or informally?

To which Mr. Bushnell replied:

No, sir, never. I have not spoken to the Prime Minister—had the honour of speaking to him in two years.

I asked a second question:

Might I ask Mr. Bushnell one other question? Did anyone purporting to speak on behalf of the Prime Minister speak to you about this program at any time?

Mr. CHAMBERS: What has all this to do with Mr. Hallman?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Perhaps I might be allowed to continue?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, if we can get back to Mr. Hallman in some way, Mr. Pickersgill.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: This has nothing to do with Mr. Hallman.

The CHAIRMAN: That is what I thought.

Mr. CHAMBERS: The point of order is on Mr. Hallman.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): You are not doing a very good job.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pickersgill, please.

Mr. PICKERSGILL:

I prefer to ask my own questions, if the Chair will permit.

The CHAIRMAN: And I would prefer that you do not need to answer it, Mr. Bushnell, unless he gets down to cases—so we have an impasse on that. Would you like to change your question, Mr. Pickersgill?

I said:

No, I will not change my question, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to answer it, Mr. Bushnell?

Mr. BUSHNELL: I think you will have to clarify for me what you mean by "purporting".

I replied:

I will be very happy to do that, and do it in the words I used the second time—anyone who represented himself to you as speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister?

Mr. BUSHNELL: No. Let me qualify that. As representing himself as speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister?



Mr. PICKERSGILL: Yes.

Mr. BUSHNELL: No.

Then I asked a third question:

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Did anyone representing himself as conveying views held by the Prime Minister speak to you about this program?

Mr. BUSHNELL: No, they did not.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: That is all the questions I have.

And that is all I had at that time, because it seemed to me—

Mr. CHAMBERS: Read on.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: —because it seemed to me that covered the waterfront, and that was a complete denial.

But if hon. members will turn to page 561, they will find there is not a complete denial, and that is precisely the point I am coming to.

At page 561 I rose and asked Mr. Bushnell a question which is not strictly relevant—that is, why the decision was made.

Then I asked a second question:

I have a second question. Mr. Bushnell agreed with Mr. Fisher that he had used the right word when he used the word “advice” about the discussion between Mr. Nowlan and Mr. Bushnell. I therefore use that word. Did you—

That is, Mr. Bushnell.

—at any time receive any advice from Mr. Nowlan that this program was displeasing to the government or to anyone in the government?

Mr. BUSHNELL: You ask if I received any advice from him?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Yes.

Mr. BUSHNELL: No.

This is the really significant question—

The CHAIRMAN: I am glad we have one.

Mr. PICKERSGILL:

Was there any suggestion from him, or did he convey in any way to you the notion of the feeling that this program was displeasing to the government or to anyone in the government?

You will note there is no denial in this case at all, but Mr. Bushnell said this:

He conveyed to me the impression that several programs had displeased a great many people in the government and elsewhere.

Any reasonable person, reading those five answers, is entitled to draw the conclusion that Mr. Nowlan did convey to Mr. Bushnell the impression these programs were displeasing to the government.

The CHAIRMAN: That is a personal opinion of yours.

Mr. FORTIN: That is a personal opinion of yours.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: That is my opinion, on the evidence, that any reasonable person is entitled to draw that conclusion.

What does that conclusion lead us to? It leads us to the view, since Mr. Bushnell has not denied that he left the impression with Mr. Jennings and with Mr. Walker that there was this political pressure, and that it involved Mr. Nowlan—this leads one inescapably to the view, in the default of any other evidence, that this is what happened.

Mr. LAMBERT: On a point of order. Mr. Pickersgill is arguing—

Mr. PICKERSGILL: We are already discussing the point of order.

Mr. FORTIN: You are not discussing the point of order.



The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pickersgill, I think I have been very fair with you. You got up to interrupt Mr. Chambers—

Mr. PICKERSGILL: No, I waited until Mr. Chambers had finished.

The CHAIRMAN: You got up on a point of his.

Mr. McIntosh, please, and then Mr. Robichaud.

Mr. McINTOSH: My question is on a point of order.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Surely, Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: This is on Mr. Pickersgill's point of order?

Mr. McINTOSH: The one that he raised first. I ask it for information, mostly. How binding is a decision of the steering committee on this committee when the steering committee is not elected by this committee, but really was selected by the chairman? I would suggest it is not binding at all, but the committee's decision is binding.

The CHAIRMAN: You are correct in that.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: When Mr. Pickersgill introduced the point of order, a remark was made to the effect that he had complied with the decision that was taken when the committee adjourned on Tuesday afternoon last.

In order to put the record straight, I think I should read the remark which was made by yourself, Mr. Chairman, as reported at page 563.

The CHAIRMAN: Were you at the meeting, Mr. Robichaud?

Mr. ROBICHAUD: I was. I was just coming in at the time.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Before there is a motion to adjourn, I would like to understand whether or not these hearings are over?

The CHAIRMAN: I would suggest that the hearings with these witnesses are over and that on Thursday morning we reconvene at 9:30 in our regular room 112N, at which time we will go back to our agenda with the C.B.C.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I would like to record my formal dissent from that decision.

Mr. CHAMBERS: It is not a "decision" but a "suggestion".

The CHAIRMAN: I said, "I would suggest". Mr. Pickersgill said, "I would like to record my formal dissent from that decision"—which he has registered.

On the point of order, Mr. Robichaud?

Mr. ROBICHAUD: On the point of order, my position is that Mr. Pickersgill had the right to raise a point of order because he objected to the closing of the hearing.

The CHAIRMAN: That is right.

Mr. Dorion, and then Mr. Tremblay.

Mr. DORION (*Interpretation*): Mr. Chairman, I have read with great care and interest the reports of the last two meetings, and I must say that with my 32 years experience as a lawyer, I have never seen such a type of proof brought up before a court.

Mr. Pickersgill would like us to continue with the witnesses who were being heard the other day, and not one single one of those witnesses could determine a single fact, or bring a single shadow of any true doubt to us that there was in fact political interference.

These people had been disciplined or, more precisely, they had given their resignations; and in my humble opinion, Mr. Chairman, we should never bother with that problem.

We have dealt too much with it and I ask the members of the committee to read the very objective article which appeared on this matter in the Financial Post.



If there were a corporation in the whole world which worked like the C.B.C. does, where the employees tell the employers what to do, then not a single corporation in the world could go on for one single year.

Mr. TREMBLAY: Hear, hear.

The CHAIRMAN: You got in there, Mr. Tremblay.

Mr. DORION (*Interpretation*): We have internal trouble, and they are trying to activate it. You can only have anarchy if you bring in witnesses in this type of connection as I mentioned.

Now you will see that in some Montreal newspapers there have been remarks printed for days and days as regards Liberal members talking of the C.B.C. being directed in a certain way and fermenting in respect to programs. This is a matter which we have to take into consideration, and what we have to have is proof of this thing before the committee. It is a matter of internal administration of the C.B.C. and no proof whatsoever of political interference. Not even a single shadow of proof has been brought up, despite Mr. Pickersgill's questions which were suggestive, and in which he accused the Prime Minister himself of interfering.

There is no concrete evidence which has been brought up. The impression was created in the newspapers that the Prime Minister interfered either directly or indirectly whereas in fact there is no shadow of doubt which is brought up in the testimony, not a single shadow, I repeat.

The only person who could reply to the questions, and the only person upon whom we can truly rely was Mr. Bushnell who came and answered questions in the committee, and who put an end indeed to these rumours.

The motives are of little importance. I have a quote from the report of the other day's proceedings as follows:

He conveyed to me the impression that several programs displeased a great many people in the government and elsewhere.

Do you think that the C.B.C. always satisfies everybody with its programs? Of course not. We represent the people. There is always a limit which you have to set. Let us not be hypocritical.

I am a member of parliament representing the people of this country, and I say that if I did not like such and such a program, then I would voice that opinion. I shall always oppose those programs where I think there is something wrong about them, and I shall not hesitate to do so. But I do not see by doing that that it is a question of political interference. So, Mr. Chairman, I think that this motion is absolutely—and I underline the word "absolutely"—out of order. I recall what Mr. McIntosh has just said, and the steering committee cannot tell us exactly how to go on in every respect; it can make recommendations—I think the word is "recommendation"—on various matters for our guidance. For some time this little game has been played. We are supposed to be people unable to participate properly in the organization of the C.B.C., whereas we have to pay—if I am not mistaken—57 per cent of the taxes in order to keep it going.

Mr. LAMBERT: \$67 million.

Mr. DORION (*Interpretation*): Excuse me—\$67 million. We are treated as though we had no responsibility towards the people. Are we not supposed to act in the proper way and to represent the people in our constituencies? You will see in the Montreal papers that Liberal members every day—

The INTERPRETER: At this point there was very great noise and the remainder was not finished.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Chairman, I have a question.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pickersgill, you have a notice of motion which you are going to speak to very shortly.



Mr. PICKERSGILL: I take exception to one word used by Mr. Dorion. I simply take exception to Mr. Dorion saying that I had accused the Prime Minister. I made no accusation.

Mr. LAMBERT: Chicken.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): May I speak to the point of order and not to a motion which presumably will be made. As I understand the point of order it is that the committee did not carry out in full the decision of the steering committee. That, of course, is evident from the proceedings. The point of order is only challenging the authority of this committee itself to overrule a subcommittee.

I venture to suggest there is no validity at all on the point of order on that ground. There were certain decisions taken by that steering committee. Mr. Pickersgill outlined some of them. He said there was a decision to call four persons. Three were called. The reason the other was not called was he did not seem to have a place in the chain of evidence. There was another equally vital stand taken; that is that this was a matter of such importance to the C.B.C. and its future that this should be cleaned up on Tuesday and would not be stretched out. The view was expressed very explicitly by Mr. Pickersgill that if it were stretched out it would do irreparable damage to the C.B.C. and this was the feeling of other members.

Some ten minutes before the meeting adjourned the other day, on Tuesday, I took the occasion to speak to my friend Mr. Pickersgill. I said to him at the time Mr. Jennings was under examination, "I think we have exhausted this whole matter. What is your opinion?" He then said to me, "I have two more questions; when I have asked them I think we are all through."

The CHAIRMAN: You said Mr. Jennings. Do you mean Mr. Bushnell?

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Yes. Let me put it that in the situation that there was some misunderstanding of language as between Mr. Pickersgill and myself, certainly I clearly understood that Mr. Pickersgill was following through with the eloquent language he used in the steering committee, that we had exhausted this matter and should get ahead. It was on that understanding I reported Mr. Pickersgill's views to my colleagues around me. If Mr. Pickersgill wants to say now he did not understand it was more than the finishing with Mr. Jennings—Mr. Bushnell—

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I was going to make that very correction.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): I think my language was very clear. We have exhausted this whole matter. As for his opinion, I want to put that in the light of what he, I and others in this steering committee said, that the protraction of this matter would in the long run be damaging to the cause of the C.B.C.

Mr. Pickersgill then put the two questions which appear on page 561. I was of the view, and all of us were of the view, that this matter was then exhausted and we would proceed to other matters.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I am sure you would not want to misrepresent what I said. Since he has said what I understood I was saying in a private conversation, I will give my version. In the first place, as he corrected himself, it was while Mr. Bushnell was giving testimony and was very near the end—not near the end of Mr. Jennings' testimony. Moreover, I understood his question to mean had I any more questions to ask. I never presumed to express the view of anyone in the committee except myself. I said I had two more questions to ask, and that was all I had and all I asked. I was not purporting or pretending to speak for anybody but myself.

The CHAIRMAN: We realize that.



Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): That is the situation. On that basis a motion was made. I would like to say so far as I am concerned if Mr. Pickersgill wants to make a motion whereby we can produce witnesses who will be useful in the reaching of any further conclusion I would be prepared to vote for it, but I am not prepared to vote for the calling of witnesses who will simply repeat further what we have already heard before this committee. It would be of no use to call persons who have simply heard from Mr. Jennings or Mr. Bushnell. I can see no point to that. We would be simply repeating.

To come to the point of order, in my view the situation is that the steering committee made certain decisions; two of them vital. It was the belief of the members of this committee we were carrying out to the full and to the letter the decision which the steering committee had taken. I suggest there is no validity in the point of order.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fisher, then Mr. Tremblay, and then we should get back to the order of business.

Mr. FISHER: I would like to come back to what Mr. Chambers said originally. With much of what he said I agree. First, there is the necessity to keep the C.B.C. going. I hope that is very strongly in the minds of all of us. The other point upon which he touched was that we had made up our minds in the committee that we were going to try to get to the root of the things on the one day. Over the interval—I checked in so far as whether or not the decision of the steering committee had any validity, and I discovered it has not; but it is really an informal matter. Therefore, there is no obligation at all upon the committee to go ahead with the calling of Mr. Hallman.

Personally, as a member of this committee, I feel I would like very much to have Mr. Hallman in front of us. I suggest that if you look through the statement of Mr. Peers, you will find that Mr. Hallman comes on the scene upon returning from overseas and figures very largely in things, standing as an intermediary in a very peculiar move in which Mr. Peers and his group went to Mr. Morton and so found an entry into the C.B.C. board of directors.

To me, the key point is that the board of directors did change their decision; after making one they made another. I would like to know what considerations were in the minds of the C.B.C. board of directors when they made that decision. That is the main reason why I would like to have Mr. Hallman here.

If anyone would be interested in supporting it, I think we should have Mr. Morton here also because I think this is a key point.

Now, the other point that has been discussed so much, especially by Mr. Bell, is the question as to whether we were completely through. I think all the gentlemen of the committee will agree that from a common sense point of view it was a very exciting afternoon, with the continuity of the questioning being broken by jumping around so much, and back and forth. To illustrate, I can remember that Mr. Lambert had some questions and he had to take some time to frame them. I was very much interested in putting more questions to Mr. Bushnell but, without any sort of a transcript there, it was very difficult. I still have some questions which I wish to ask Mr. Bushnell, as a result of reviewing his evidence, because, as Mr. Pickersgill pointed out—and I think you can find other examples in here—there are anomalies in his evidence. I would like to suggest to other members of the committee that if we take the line that has been suggested to us by Mr. Dorion—in other words, that nothing has been proved and whatever Mr. Bushnell said had completely refuted and wiped out anything that was told to us by Mr. Jennings, Mr. Walker or by the other groups,—then I think we are turning our backs on this odd evidence that was given, by giving to Mr. Bushnell's remarks a much greater validity than that testimony is worth. However, in so far as I am concerned, this



is a personal opinion. That is another reason that I would like to know what went on with the C.B.C. board of directors which caused them to change this decision, because I have to conclude that there was a long discussion, that Mr. Bushnell was there and Mr. Hallman was there.

The CHAIRMAN: Would Mr. Hallman have been at the board of directors meetings?

Mr. FISHER: He was there to give some evidence. This is the fundamental reason why it seems to me we have to go on further—not that I particularly want to go on further because I am very worried about the future of the C.B.C., but if we do not go on I think we are going to leave a very large question unanswered. I would like to suggest to the majority members of this committee that the fact they should take this particular line is going to sit very poorly with many people in Canada, in my opinion. I feel there will be accusations that they are attempting to whitewash and head off.

Now, if it is done on the basis of Mr. Chambers' plea, that we may be wrecking the C.B.C., I have to agree that is a great danger, but I do not see how I can turn away now from the situation, with all its seriousness, and for this reason I would like to suggest that in so far as the point of order is concerned, the decision of the subcommittee, or what we felt about that, has no validity or worth.

I would like to suggest, as a member of the steering committee and as a member of the committee, that we have Mr. Hallman here and personally, myself, I would like to have Mr. Morton here. I would like to appeal to all members of the committee that if we stop this now I think we are going to bring about a worse situation. I, personally, was shocked to discover this morning that Messrs. Peers, Gillis and Trotter had gone back to work.

An hon. MEMBER: Perhaps they used some sense.

Mr. FISHER: That might have some merit. I was shocked, not that I feel from their evidence that they will not make excellent employees for the C.B.C., but it seems to me that here again there is an assumption on someone's part that we were all through with this matter when I do not think we are. For that reason, I do not want to support so much the point of order as to make the request to the committee that we be allowed to have Mr. Hallman here and that the committee, as a whole, consider having Mr. Morton here.

My final point, Mr. Chairman, is that I would like to question Mr. Bushnell further and my reasons for this are the common sense ones—the excitement and the fact that it was very difficult to frame questions from the way the evidence came out. I think if any of you will look at Mr. Bushnell's answers to some of the questions I and Mr. McIntosh asked, I think you will see the reason why I make this request. After a retrospective glance at this we could probably bring much more pertinent questions to bear upon Mr. Bushnell.

My final conclusion, Mr. Chairman: I was completely dissatisfied with the evidence which Mr. Bushnell gave and, for that reason, I tend to feel there is some merit in the remarks that Mr. Pickersgill made, because of the very unsatisfactory evidence.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr. Tremblay, you are next, and then perhaps we will have Mr. Pickersgill's motion. Mr. Tremblay, will you confine yourself pretty well to the point of order.

(Mr. Tremblay, having spoken in French).

The CHAIRMAN: Translation, please.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: I hope the translation is more in order than the speech that has just been made.

The CHAIRMAN: I knew it was in order because I could hear the names "Walker" and "Bushnell" all the way through it.



Mr. TREMBLAY (*Interpretation*): Mr. Chairman, on this matter I wish now to express my opinion. Contrary to my normal practice in the meetings, I kept my silence when we heard the three witnesses who came the other day—contrary to my normal practice. I kept a very studied silence, and by the time we were getting to the end it was a very amused silence. At the beginning I think there was an error, in the first place, in the broadcasting committee allowing these gentlemen to come and testify before us.

We had agreed on a certain agenda, which we had accepted here and which we were supposed to follow through. We also agreed not to enter into personalities, and in this connection, any interventions regarding personalities were immediately considered by the chairman as being out of order. We heard the three witnesses who came: Mr. Peers, who spoke on his own behalf, and there was also Mr. Gillis and Mr. Trotter—who were unable to prove what they should have proved. Then we had Mr. Walker and Mr. Jennings, who—for a reason unknown to me—made an accusation against Mr. Bushnell by reporting their points of view and their facts in a way which I would not wish to qualify.

Then Mr. Bushnell made a categorical denial by stating that there was no political interference of any kind whatsoever. We should have stopped at that point.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Do you want to read it?

Mr. TREMBLAY (*Interpretation*): You can find it yourself.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I cannot.

Mr. FLYNN: Page five hundred and fifty-five.

Mr. TREMBLAY (*Interpretation*): So, Mr. Chairman, since then the three gentlemen involved have been put back in their jobs. Now, I do not know why we should carry on the inquiry in this committee to satisfy the aims of certain people who have obvious demagogic intentions. There is talk of freedom of expression. This is a pretext and it is a diversion, the aim of which is to force us, or cause us to overlook what the true facts are.

Now, what we want to know is as regards the administration of the money which we vote for the C.B.C. to carry on its business. Several times I expressed my disapproval regarding replies we received so far. They were vague, these replies. We were very often treated with insolence. An example of this was when I asked an official of the C.B.C. what were the criteria of the C.B.C. for programming. I was given a vague answer in an insolent way.

An hon. MEMBER (*Interpretation*): Order.

Mr. TREMBLAY (*Interpretation*): I am coming back to it, Mr. Robichaud. Now, this incidence which arose following upon the three gentlemen I have referred to earlier causes me to mention a big danger which arises for the C.B.C. I am referring to the danger of incompetence. We must try, in this committee, to look into that particular aspect.

The fact of further questioning these witnesses and others proves absolutely nothing of what was established during the last meeting of the committee. I do not see in any way whatsoever what can be proved, except hearsay, such as we had the day before yesterday.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand from Mr. Pickersgill—he gave us notice of motion.

The INTERPRETER: This is not finished.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sorry.

Mr. TREMBLAY (*Interpretation*): Now, I would say that if my particular point of view regarding this business of the inquiry continuing—and I would say by all means it would be a different matter if we had the time to continue;



but our time is very limited: we only have a certain amount of time available for us before the end of the session, or, at least, the time preceding the end of the session would appear to be limited.

Mr. ROBICHAUD (*Interpretation*): There is still a month.

Mr. TREMBLAY (*Interpretation*): That is not much, Mr. Robichaud, when you are trying to go into the administration of the C.B.C.

So we should first try to dispose of our agenda. I would point out, for those who want absolutely to continue the inquiry, that if the committee allows us to carry on a further inquiry, then I shall make a special request for an inquiry into certain aspects of the French network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and I shall ask for certain people to be subpoenaed, those people who are responsible for dissemination of public information programs and what is called popular education.

If we want to proceed still further, I shall not object; but I shall reserve, myself, the right to ask for people to be subpoenaed who are responsible—as I say—for the dissemination of information and as regards the administrative sectors on the French network of the C.B.C.—and here I speak in my capacity as a representative of the people.

We have to obtain information. Among the information we should obtain is the following—and I draw this to the attention of the committee—regarding the proceedings of two days ago, when the C.B.C. on the 11:00 o'clock news in the evening cut an interview of a Montreal journalist just when he was going to mention Mr. Bushnell's statement that there was no political interference. The manner in which this was done could give the impression, or gave the impression that there was, in fact, political interference, to those people listening to or watching the program.

I mention this fact to show that we could carry on very far indeed in that field, and I shall certainly point out right here and now that I oppose continuation of the inquiry. But if, in spite of this opposition on my part, the committee does want to go on, then I shall personally ask that the people I have referred to be subpoenaed.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Gentlemen, I was going to say that Mr. Pickersgill has given notice of motion. Mr. Lambert, Mr. Brassard and Mr. McIntosh—I know each has a short statement on the point of order.

Mr. LAMBERT: Mr. Chairman, may I say at the outset that I am distressed here, in some ways, that the weight of the evidence which was heard the other day has been considered publicly, and that we have conducted, in some way, a trial in headlines. I think the judgment of this committee would have been of greater value if that had been done privately.

In these matters there was a responsibility upon us to make an inquiry and to come to conclusions, and not to have a day-to-day trial in headlines.

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. LAMBERT: However, in view of the fact that the gentlemen in question, who appeared before us the other day and who precipitated this allegation which we are looking into—the matter of alleged clandestine political interference, have returned to work—they have said, "All right, we did that, but if management is prepared to take us back, we will go back"—they have shown good will, to that extent.

Management—and I say this advisedly—might have had every reason to say, "We do not want to see you people from here till kingdom come". But they have said, "All right, we are prepared to take you back".

In view of the fact that the witnesses, if they were asked, candidly, might say, "We were unwise in our judgment in using those words", in the same way as Mr. Bushnell—and here, I do not want to weigh the evidence—did say that he was unwise, perhaps, in using certain terms in conversation with members



of the staff of the C.B.C., and also has said or indicated that on cooler reflection, perhaps, he would not have used those words. We can all say things in the press of events, and then, on the morning after the press of events, say, "I wish I had not put, not only one foot, but both feet in my mouth". Now, for goodness sakes, why do we sit here and pick and pick at it?

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): Pickersgill—

The CHAIRMAN: You did not say, "Pick at 'Pick'"?

Mr. LAMBERT: Without any reference to what Mr. Bell of Saint John said: we can sit here and dissect, in cross-section, every action of the previous day. Of course, we can all point out where we would have been wiser yesterday by doing otherwise. My only word is that those who live in a glass house should not throw rocks.—

Mr. FLYNN: That is a reflection on Mr. Pickersgill.

Mr. LAMBERT:—and I am sure the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate would be the first one to agree with that. I am sure that on mature reflection certain of his words and actions in the past he wished had never come across his mind. So, Mr. Chairman, I am distressed there is here an attempt to come back to this. We have already had an effort by the principals involved to get back to work; and here there is an attempt, I think, perhaps, to throw more salt in the wounds, to open it up.

There is an attempt here to ask this committee to prove the innocence—and I am going to use these words—to prove the innocence of someone unspecified, because no one, as yet, has had the courage to come forward with names, dates and places.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: That is not true.

Mr. LAMBERT: This is a serious matter, and a statement was made—which, I think, should have had the greatest consideration of its effect—without being able to name dates and places. And the witnesses candidly admitted that they based themselves on a report from someone else.

Beyond that I am not going to go into the weight of the evidence; and unless someone is able to come forward and lay a specific charge, I would say this committee is not in a position then to carry this one. We are not here to try anybody in headlines: we are not here to prove the innocence of some unspecified person. Let whoever makes the charge prove it. I think that is an ordinary principle of justice. We have it in our courts; why should it be anything less in parliament?

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Lambert.

Mr. Brassard?

Mr. BRASSARD (*Lapointe*) (*Interpretation*): Mr. Chairman, I think that the main reason used by those who oppose the calling of Mr. Hallman here is the argument that we only heard hearsay on Tuesday.

I think there are some legal people who try to take the committee for a court of law; but there is, surely, more latitude in a committee of the House of Commons than in an ordinary court of law?

Here is someone who heard from his immediate superior, a superior officer of the C.B.C., a high official of the C.B.C., that there were threats to the employees if the program were not dropped. That, Mr. Chairman, is mere hearsay. We should have permission to hear Mr. Hallman.

Furthermore, Mr. Tremblay said that Mr. Bushnell had rejected and denied any suggestion whatsoever of political interference.

Mr. TREMBLAY (*Interpretation*): No.

The INTERPRETER: Mr. Johnson, I think; excuse me.



Mr. BRASSARD (*Lapointe*) (*Interpretation*): And that Mr. Bushnell had a phone call with Mr. Ouimet from the Celebrity Club in Toronto, in which there was mention of someone's head falling, or being in danger, if the program were not dropped.

Now this is serious, and this is not a matter of internal administration alone of the C.B.C., as Mr. Tremblay said. This is a matter of external pressure being applied; and no harm will be done to the C.B.C. if the inquiry is extended. They are afraid, perhaps, rather for the government.

Mr. DORION: That is very nice of you.

The CHAIRMAN: It would appear that we have too great a division of opinion, and we will not get this settled until we have the motion.

Mr. McINTOSH: Mr. Chairman, speaking to the point of order, I suggest for a second time that this is not a point of order as far as this committee is concerned. It may be a point of order as far as the steering committee is concerned, but it is not one so far as this committee is concerned. However, you have allowed the discussion to go as far as it has, and in reply to what Mr. Fisher said about calling Mr. Hallman and then Dr. Morton, I would ask how far is this calling going to go? Are we to call just one director or all the directors? I suggest that we stick to our terms of reference, and that if questions such as this should come up, let them come up in the house. A great many of us are concerned about getting along with the agenda, and I still say this is no concern of this committee. I think you are allowing this point of order to go too far.

The CHAIRMAN: I am trying to act as diplomatically as possible in permitting every person to have his say. However there are two other persons who wish to speak.

Mr. TAYLOR: I was going to speak to the main motion.

The CHAIRMAN: We have no main motion. Would you keep it until the main motion? Mr. Paul?

Mr. PAUL: Yes.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I move, seconded by Mr. Robichaud, that the committee invite Mr. W. L. Morton of the board of directors and Mr. Hallman, director of English radio networks, to appear before the committee at the earliest possible date to give evidence on the matter which was before the committee on June 30.

I do not intend to speak to it at all.

The CHAIRMAN: I hope there will not be too much discussion on the motion because I think we have gone over this matter pretty well already.

Mr. Pickersgill moves, seconded by Mr. Robichaud that the committee invite Mr. W. L. Morton of the board of directors and Mr. Hallman, director of English radio networks, to appear before the committee at the earliest possible date to give evidence on the matter which was before the committee on June 30.

Mr. TAYLOR: This motion to call witnesses was passed, I believe, just over a week ago, and it was to call three senior officers of the corporation, the three officers who had resigned because of alleged political interference. This was done, although I do not think that the members of this committee, including myself, were wise in entering into this dispute. I feel that entering this dispute has resulted in distracting the committee from its main function and purpose.

Now we are being asked to call additional witnesses. It is quite true that it is possible, although I submit not probable, that new and it may be interesting evidence might come to light. But if that did come to pass, then it would be necessary in turn to call still more witnesses, and this thing could go on ad nauseam, and ad infinitum.

I think that this committee has been fair to date in calling the three witnesses and then in turn allowing three other even more senior officials to



be called. I think we have been magnanimous in this regard, and I think we have been fair. But in my humble opinion, this has to stop.

We must vacate this field for two possible grounds; firstly that this is not a proper subject to be heard by this tribunal, and I submit also that this body is not properly set up really to handle this type of investigation.

If the hearing must be continued, then I submit that we should set up a subcommittee to deal with the matter in the same way that we are dealing now, or more properly, I submit, that we should return the problem to the government for appropriate action.

Consideration might also be given to permitting the corporation to put its own house in order. I think there should be a cooling off to allow the board of directors of this corporation to deal with the entire matter.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you please stick to the motion closely?

Mr. TAYLOR: But in any event, to continue this hearing is doing a disservice to the corporation and to the country, and more particularly to my own constituents in Vancouver-Burrard. We are now adding to the tearing down instead of putting together. I also understand that in due course, Mr. Chairman, a report must be made to parliament of the activities of this committee. There are many large problems that we have yet to grapple with; many large problems. Yet time is running out and I understand that this committee dies with the adjournment of parliament which might well be within 18 days time.

I ask this question: whether or not this problem of alleged political interference should preoccupy our remaining time? I was going to deal with previous commentaries, but I think that probably they are a little removed from the actual motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, it would be somewhat out of order.

Mr. TAYLOR: I certainly want to know, as a member of the committee, whether or not, for example,—oh, I am saved by the House bell.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, you are saved by the bell. Gentlemen, is it agreeable to you that we reconvene in half an hour, that is at 11.30?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: When the orders of the day have been disposed of.

The CHAIRMAN: After the orders of the day or at 11.30, whichever comes first. Then we shall have Mr. Paul and Mr. Fisher on the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, ladies and gentlemen. Mr. Taylor, had you completed your remarks?

Mr. TAYLOR: Not quite, Mr. Chairman, but I will complete them very, very quickly.

The motion is that we call additional witnesses, and I tried earlier to say if the witnesses are called that much time will be taken in hearing them and, in turn, delving into further problems that might arise. I pointed out there were many large problems facing the community and that in a short period of time the committee is to make its report. Personally, I would like to give much further consideration to many of the larger problems. I would like to know in connection with our own area why 80 per cent of the television audience is listening to a television station—

The CHAIRMAN: Just on the motion, Mr. Taylor.

Mr. TAYLOR: The other point, Mr. Chairman, is that if we continue to call additional witnesses we might make it impossible for the committee to get the other particulars which we will in turn want. There will be an atmosphere of hostility and I do not think that is the best way in which we can continue to carry on. I am against the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Does anyone else wish to speak to the motion?



Mr. PAUL (*Interpretation*): Well, Mr. Chairman, in listening to Mr. Pickersgill's motion of this morning it would have been interesting to know what he means to prove by calling upon Mr. Hallman to come before the committee to testify, and following upon the reasons put forward by Mr. Pickersgill, if Mr. Hallman quoted other names of employees of the C.B.C., which might have been all rumours, on the basis of Tuesday's hearings, then we would have to call upon them to come before the committee to testify.

I think we have lost quite enough time as it is up until now with this problem, because in reality nothing concrete or precise was brought forward. No precise accusation was brought forward by Messrs. Gillis, Trotter and Peers and, even if we are not before an actual court of law, I think we must observe certain elementary rules of proof as a guiding principle.

The INTERPRETER: The member for Brassard said—

The CHAIRMAN: It is Mr. Brassard.

The INTERPRETER: I am sorry; the member for Brassard, Mr. Lapointe.

The CHAIRMAN: It is Mr. Brassard from Lapointe.

The INTERPRETER: I am sorry. I will get it right this time.

Mr. PAUL (*Interpretation*): Mr. Brassard from Lapointe said shortly before the adjournment that we must give a certain amount of latitude in regard to the complaints and rumours.

The INTERPRETER: At this point the member for Lapointe interjected a correction by saying:

Not complaints or rumours but the way of proceeding.

Mr. PAUL (*Interpretation*): But if we hear all the witnesses in connection with these rumours and so on, then we shall never get to the end of it. I would like to point out and respectfully say that the inquiry is no doubt a very hearty meal for the journalists, but the work of analyzing the estimates, which are necessary for the good of administration for the C.B.C., calls for priority rather than a study of the problem which preoccupied the Tuesday sitting. That is why I say the motion should not be accepted. I say this because no precise point was put forward by Mr. Pickersgill this morning and we always run the danger of simply hearing once again political interference, without any proof of it having been indulged in by any person.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fisher, do you wish to speak on the motion?

Mr. FISHER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I want to support this motion, and the remarks I gave earlier give the reasons largely for it. However, I feel I should comment on some of the things which Mr. Taylor said in speaking to it. He said this was not a proper subject for this committee. Well, I do not know that we can be the judge of that. I would like to suggest to the committee if this is not a proper subject almost every one of our committee hearings have dealt with subjects that are improper, and this is too late in the day to begin worrying about whether this is a proper subject. I agree perhaps a little bit more with his suggestion that we are not properly set up to handle this kind of investigation, and he suggested that we might have a subcommittee or return the matter to the government. Well, the latter suggestion is very intriguing—that we return the matter to the government; but I am afraid some of us have been waiting for a number of days to see the government do something about this, and nothing has happened.

In so far as the general tenor of the remarks that have been made in this committee is concerned, I anticipate that this motion is going to be ruled out, and I would just like to suggest that if the main reason why the members are antagonistic to this motion is because they feel—as has been expressed by a number of them—that we are getting ourselves involved and continuing



a time of crisis for the C.B.C., if necessary we should meet this protest—and the protest has been made that it is nothing but trial by headlines—and have the witnesses appear before us in camera, which is not something I like—

Some Hon. MEMBERS: No, no.

Mr. FISHER: But, at the very least, that would get by these particular objections. I make the point on that, that it would be very interesting to have someone from the board of directors here other than Mr. Bushnell or Mr. Ouimet. I think we all noticed the statement following the meeting two days ago. It was a press statement, so I do not know how true it is. But it was that in so far as these three gentlemen coming back on the staff and their resignations being turned back to them is concerned, that would be a decision for the C.B.C. board of directors, and yet we have another statement this morning that they were called back by Mr. Walker.

This, again, brings the focus upon the role of the C.B.C. board of directors and their whole role throughout this particular case, and the logic of having them here to explain the matter is very strong to me. I think this motion should be approved in so far as that aspect of it is concerned.

In so far as Mr. Hallman is concerned, again I would like the members of the committee to notice what a prominent part Mr. Hallman played in the evidence put forward by Mr. Peers, in so far as a go-between or an interlocutor between the board, or certain members of the board of directors, and for that reason I think he may very well have some information that we do not have. For that reason Mr. Hallman and Mr. Morton would, I think, be very valuable witnesses, and I hope we will have a very favourable vote on the matter.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): Did you move an amendment?

Mr. FISHER: No, I did not move an amendment.

Mr. CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to oppose this motion, and on the same grounds I used speaking on Mr. Pickersgill's point of order this morning—and I shall be brief. I believe that to give the employees of the corporation—bring them before us to, you may say, air their complaints about management, could only damage and further weaken the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. On the case of Mr. Hallman; Mr. Hallman, to my knowledge, has made no public statement that would lead us to believe that he has information of value to us. I have read the evidence carefully and I can see nothing in the evidence that leads us to believe that he can further our inquiry.

Mr. Pickersgill, in making his motion—and those who have supported him—has not given us any suggestion of what type of help Mr. Hallman might give to our inquiry. You could go on asking employees of the C.B.C., right through the 31 that resigned, to come and give their individual views, and I do not think it would be helpful.

In the case of Dr. Morton we have a slightly different situation. There is a board of directors; Dr. Morton is one member of that board. To ask him to come here and give evidence of what took place at a meeting of the board of directors—which, in effect, we would have to do—seems to me to be a very questionable propriety, to say the least. Consideration of having information from the board of directors might well be given. But there is one—apart from Mr. Bushnell and Mr. Ouimet—who I understand is the senior non-permanent member, Mr. Dunsmuir; and it seems to me that we would be getting on difficult ground if we called one individual member.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say this: if it can be shown that any individual called before this committee as a witness can further our inquiry and get to the bottom of this thing, I will support that motion. But I do not feel the motion we have before us now will advance us in that direction.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question, gentlemen?



Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Chairman, I was waiting until Mr. Chambers finished. There are some points that have been raised, and I only intend to deal with points that have been raised, to which I would like to make a reply.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Pickersgill.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Paul put the question: what did I want to prove by calling these witnesses? I do not want to prove anything: it is not my business to prove anything—nor is it the business of the committee to prove anything.

When we had the exchange in the House of Commons—which all hon. members will remember—Mr. Nowlan indicated that this committee was the proper form to inquire into and seek the truth of this matter—and that is all I am interested in. I am not interested in proving one thing or another—not in the slightest. I am interested in finding out whether or not—and I come to another point, which I think was also put by Mr. Paul, who said there was no precise accusation made.

I would like to refer to the evidence given on Tuesday, at page 523. That is the evidence of Mr. Peers who, after all, was the person who was invited here to give the evidence, and he spoke for the three people who had made this accusation. Here is what Mr. Peers said, at the middle of the page:

He said that Mr. Bushell had been given two alternatives: either to take this program off the air or the corporate structure of the C.B.C. would be endangered. Mr. Walker said that he was not at liberty to divulge further information but that external pressures were involved.

Then there was some interchange, and then Mr. Peers went on again:

We asked if these alternatives had been put to Mr. Bushnell by someone with a political connection. Mr. Walker said yes.

Mr. JOHNSON: Do you object to reading what the chairman said?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Perhaps I could be allowed to continue this paragraph, and then I would be glad to listen to the question. That is, in my view, a precise statement of what he was told by his superior officer as the reason for the action being taken, and it was on the basis of that that this gentleman and the two others who were with him resigned from their positions. I think this meets the suggestion that there is not some precise accusation—and we are supposed to get to the bottom of it.

You will also remember that in the house, when I replied to Mr. Nowlan very briefly, I said that I thought this inquiry should be conducted in a quiet, judicial and non-partisan spirit, and I have tried to conduct myself in that way.

Mr. FORTIN: Not with great success.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I also said it would go on until we had got at the truth, and the whole truth, and that is because I believed both these witnesses would help us to get at the truth.

Mr. CHAMBERS: In what way?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I am going to come to that evidence. In listening to the evidence of Mr. Peers, I was impressed by what he said about Mr. Hallman's connection. He mentioned many employees of the C.B.C. who, according to his evidence, I do not think would give any additional evidence, and I would never have suggested that they come. But he did make certain references to Mr. Hallman's connection with this matter which seemed to me to indicate that Mr. Hallman had some knowledge of some things that happened, both in the board of directors and outside the board of directors at the meeting Mr. Bushnell had on the Sunday evening with the members of the staff, that we were entitled to have information about, if that information was there. Mr. Fisher, I thought, confirmed that very well this morning, and I completely agree with his view about that.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): The kiss of death.



Mr. PICKERSGILL: Regarding Mr. Paul's suggestion that, because other people might have to be called in order to get at the whole truth and the inquiry might go on for a long time, that is, I think, an argument that answers itself. If we are supposed to get at the truth—and nothing can be more important than to find out whether or not this corporation is being allowed to proceed independently or whether external pressures of a political nature are—as has been alleged and has not been denied—being—

Mr. FORTIN: Has not been proved, you mean.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I asked Mr. Tremblay this morning to cite in the evidence where it had been denied, and he said I could look for it for myself. I have looked for it for myself, and I can find—

Mr. FLYNN: Page 555.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: —no denial.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bushnell denied it; you know that, Mr. Pickersgill.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: The chairman may perhaps, also, let me speak for myself. What Mr. Bushnell said here—

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Page 555.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: We will look at page 557.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Look at page 555.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I am making the speech, and I waited patiently until everybody else had.

On page 557 Mr. Fisher said:

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Bushnell, the question I think we are all very interested in knowing is, how Mr. Jennings got the impression—which was passed on to Mr. Walker, which later got down to the three people that were called here today—that, in the slang phrase that Mr. Walker used, “heads will roll”?

Mr. Bushnell replied:

Mr. Fisher, as Mr. Jennings said, he could not confirm that I actually used those terms.

And then he added:

I did.

It seems to me that that is precise, categorical, and that Mr. Bushnell said that he told Mr. Jennings he did use those phrases. Therefore nobody can say there has been a categorical denial; and the whole matter is left in doubt.

Mr. CHAMBERS: May I ask a question?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Certainly.

Mr. CHAMBERS: How do you interpret “doubt” in the statement of Mr. Bushnell on page 555?—

I want to say, as simply and directly as possible, that never at any time has any order or a directive been given to me, or to my president, Mr. Ouimet, by the Hon. Mr. George Nowlan or by any member of parliament, or by anyone else who could be said to wield political influence.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I believe that, absolutely: I am sure no order or directive was given. That has nothing to do with the case—that has nothing to do with the case. It has been pointed out to me by Mr. Fisher that immediately after the questions I read on page 557—perhaps I had better read right on:

Mr. FISHER: You did use those terms?

Mr. BUSHNELL: Yes.

Mr. FISHER: Why?



Mr. BUSHNELL: This matter has a rather long association. No heads were going to roll because of the cancellation of this program, but I think you will agree that it has been stated by newspapers—I have heard it said that such a statement has been made, if you like, by members of political parties, and I felt convinced that with this rather tragic series of unfortunate circumstances that we have had in the last six months, that if we did not pull up our socks, certainly somebody's head would roll—and quite properly.

We have the evidence, certainly not contradicted by Mr. Bushnell.

Mr. FLYNN: It is not proved.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Of course, it is not proved.

Mr. FLYNN: It is proof we are looking for.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: If there were proof, I would not be asking for more witnesses to be called. There is a doubt, which it is our duty to resolve.

An hon. MEMBER: It is a doubt in your intention too.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: The hon. gentleman can make any interruption he likes as to other people's intentions. That remark is quite unparliamentary.

The CHAIRMAN: To come back to the point?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: To come back to the point, this evidence that has been read shows very clearly we were left in a doubt, and a very serious doubt, involving the government, involving the Conservative party—

Mr. FORTIN: What about the Liberal party?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: —And involving—what is, in my mind, much more important than these others—the integrity of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pickersgill, please. Gentlemen, before you continue, we are never going to complete this evidence unless you give Mr. Pickersgill a chance.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would say, as for the calling of Mr. Morton, I thought Mr. Peers' evidence was sufficient to indicate that Mr. Morton, of all the members of the board, did have a special association with this matter, and a special relationship to it, which, it seemed to me, would make him a more useful witness than any other member of the board of directors. But I would have no objection to anybody amending my motion to include, "any other member of the board of directors any member here felt ought to be called".

But there is an additional reason, of course, why we should call someone from the board of directors, because it will be recalled that Mr. Paul Martin, in the House of Commons, asked the Prime Minister a question about whether Mr. Allister Grosart was involved in any way in this matter. The reply the Prime Minister made to this question—and I have not *Hansard* here, but I remember it, I think, quite correctly, in substance—was that we should ask the board of directors about that.

The board of directors have not been asked about that; and it seems to me we should take the Prime Minister's advice. The hon. members who support the Prime Minister should be the first to support taking his advice, and give us an opportunity to ask that question.

There is this most fundamental reason, of course: the board of directors is charged with the management of the C.B.C.; and this committee is not. We are examining members of the staff of the C.B.C. all the time, asking them questions about all sorts of details. My submission is, the people we should be examining are not the staff at all, but the members of the board of directors. The members of the board of directors are people who are responsible to parliament for this, and not the staff of the C.B.C.



Mr. McINTOSH: Why did you not make that suggestion in the first place?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I would point out, if Mr. McIntosh will look at the very first day's proceedings, he will find a reminder—he will find that the chairman reminded the committee that Mr. Nowlan had given an undertaking in parliament at the last session—as far as a minister can, and I admit the committee is master of its own affairs—and I said we ought to do what Mr. Nowlan said the committee should do, namely, to examine the legislation and how the new legislation was working.

That suggestion of mine was completely over-ruled by the committee, and as I represent a minority in the committee—

The CHAIRMAN: Would you stick to the motion, please?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I was simply replying to a question.

The CHAIRMAN: There will be no other interjections.

Mr. FLYNN: We hope.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: My final reason for asking members to reconsider the matter and vote for the motion is that if this matter is left in the position it now is, this doubt—this genuine doubt—that is left by the evidence we have heard is going to be left indefinite; and it ought to be cleared up.

The CHAIRMAN: Are we ready for the question, gentlemen?

Mr. McCLEAVE: I would point out to Mr. Pickersgill that Mr. Bushnell was a member of the board of directors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

The CHAIRMAN: Are we ready for the question, gentlemen?

The question is this: Moved by Mr. Pickersgill, seconded by Mr. Robichaud, that the committee invite Mr. W. L. Morton of the board of directors and Mr. Hallman, director of the English radio network, to appear before this committee at the earliest possible date to give evidence on the matter which was before the committee on June 30.

Motion negatived.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fisher, before you bring up your point—and I promise we will get to it—may we come back to this and clear this up first?

Mr. Smith, do you want to talk on this letter we received from the Board of Directors of the C.B.C.?

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): Mr. Chairman, I am happy to do as you wish. If you wish to clear up this matter first, deal with this matter first before we proceed—

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fisher has given notice of motion. Have you a seconder, Mr. Fisher?

Mr. FISHER: Yes, Mr. Robichaud.

I move Mr. Nowlan be invited to come and inform the committee of the advice that he gave Mr. Bushnell on programming.

Mr. JOHNSON: He is a member of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN: That is all right. A member of the committee can be invited to give evidence.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): I would say, unhesitatingly, I would support that motion. I think now we are getting back on the rails, where we are getting into the chain of evidence, and we are getting somewhere if we ask Mr. Nowlan to come. I think we ought to ask him to appear before the committee at the earliest possible moment.

Let us clear the decks, and get the C.B.C. back to operating on a proper basis, without serious damage being done to it by the type of diversionary motion we have had this morning.

The CHAIRMAN: Does anybody else wish to speak to the motion?



Mr. BELL (*St. John-Albert*): We do not need a motion.

Mr. JOHNSON: I am against the motion and I shall vote against it. If we are going to bring Mr. Nowlan or everyone whom the Liberals or the C.C.F. members of this committee wish to put on the grill let us add to the motion. When we spoke about bringing Mr. Peers, all those who claimed that there was at any time political interference with the C.B.C., there was no one who had any objection against the management of the C.B.C. That is why I am going to vote against the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question?

It is moved by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Mr. Robichaud that Mr. Nowlan be invited to come and inform the committee on the "advice" that he gave to Mr. Bushnell about the programming.

Mr. FISHER: That word "advice" is in quotation marks.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): I hope the language of the motion will not be considered too confining.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question? All those in favour of the motion will please signify? Those contrary? I declare the motion carried.

Now may we get back to the letter that I read to the committee earlier this morning.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): After this interesting and important diversion, the committee may recall—

Mr. KUCHEREPA: Mr. Chairman, relating to the motion we have just passed, when is it your intention to call Mr. Nowlan?

The CHAIRMAN: We shall take that up in the steering committee. Now, Mr. Smith, thank you.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): I said at the outset that after this diversion, perhaps the committee will recall that it was over a month ago when the question was raised of obtaining certain information on costs from the corporation by vote of the committee, when we instructed the corporation to produce the information which I have referred to.

Now a month has elapsed and I think it is perhaps important to note that previous to this, on approximately 24 hours notice, the corporation was able to provide us with similar information without any delay.

We now have a request from them by letter which does not present any new facts, to reassess the arguments which were presented to us at that time. The only reference I want to make is the suggestion that perhaps the committee members did not give full consideration as to the consequence of the importance of the decision which we arrived at. Certainly many of us have stressed here the importance in maintaining successful operations in the corporation. At the same time, we think that this should not be done without some regard to costs. We believe that our actual motion which had acceptance by the committee would stress this suggestion.

The whole argument which the corporation has placed before us is summed up in one paragraph, that the sale of the C.B.C. live produced programs at the highest price that the market will bear to allow them the full cost can, however, be misrepresented as a subsidy. We argue, sir, that at no time have they established that all that the market will bear has been received.

This was the concern of the Fowler commission as stated at page 180:

How does the commercial division know that the particular sponsor who buys the show would not be willing to pay \$6,000 or that some other sponsor in another company or another industry would not be willing to pay \$7,000 for it?



I think it is important to receive this information, to determine what deals were made with the companies to determine how much better it might have been in the interests of the system, and in the saving of some money for the taxpayers in the production of this particular programming. I have nothing further to add except the suggestion that this is effrontery to the committee to come back, and I believe the motion should stand. I do not see any reason to move any further motion, and I suggest that the corporation is putting themselves in the place where, unless this information is provided, they should be considered to be held in contempt of this committee.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): I was one of those who voted against the information to which reference is now being made, being produced before the committee. I did so after having heard very extensive arguments.

We are now confronted with a situation a month later where the C.B.C., having had this information available for some time, comes back and asks us to reconsider.

I confess that I find the reasons which are advanced in their statement singularly unconvincing. We took a majority decision of this committee. We have had no reason advanced why the majority of this committee should change its view.

I personally intend—should it come to a vote—to stand by the decision of the majority of the committee, contrary to the view which I expressed earlier.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I would like to make an observation about this motion. As you know, I spoke on that particular occasion for several of my colleagues in the committee as well as for myself when I said that after listening to the Minister of National Revenue who stated to us that the corporation was already in the radio field but that we were here considering television, and that it was in the television field, that in the near future it was to be confronted with competition, and that we would not demand from their competition the kind of information we were demanding from the C.B.C., and that in view of the time-honoured principle governing the operations of the Canadian National Railways vis a vis the Canadian Pacific Railway, I felt that Mr. Nowlan's case, unless our whole parliamentary experience since 1919 was to be disregarded, was an unanswerable argument. That is why I voted as I did.

I think the board of directors—I would have been happier if they had given slightly stronger reasons, but I am satisfied that the reasons they have given are sufficient. I think that the vote I made at that time was sound, and I hope that the committee will reconsider this matter because I think it is a real danger to the independence of the corporation to be disregarding their advice.

Moreover, parliament at the last session—I did not like its decision—but they decided that the board of directors of the C.B.C. was to run the C.B.C. and not a parliamentary committee. I have the feeling that to disregard this would constitute an attack upon the board of directors.

And as Mr. Donald Gordon was reported to have said in another committee under similar circumstances, if we do not like the board of directors, we should fire them. We should not interfere with their functions.

That is what the committee is seeking to do; and for that reason, if anyone will make the motion—I know that if I made it it would never carry—but if anyone supporting the government will make the motion to reconsider this matter, I would certainly vote for it.

Mr. TREMBLAY (*Interpretation*): Well, Mr. Chairman, I am utterly astonished that this morning this question which we had disposed of has come back again. We had asked for information concerning the proportion paid by sponsors in sponsored programs. I do not see any reason why I should change my opinion. We are entitled to know what is paid in this connection.



I repeat that we are responsible for the use of public funds and we are absolutely entitled to know the relationship between what we give to the C.B.C. and what we get from it.

I say, like many others have already said before me, including my colleague from Bellechasse this morning, that we are not satisfied with the C.B.C. That is why we want to know what the C.B.C. does with the taxpayers' funds.

It is well understood, as was just said by Mr. Pickersgill, that there is a board of directors in whom we can have reasonable confidence; but there comes a moment, Mr. Chairman, when you have to make a review of the policy in connection with the officials and to study their behaviour.

I have confidence in the officials of the government, but in the case of the C.B.C. I think there is abuse and that is what we want to denounce. We want to know what is the real basis for the grievances we hear from the people. We wish to know these facts which I have mentioned. We wish to know what the C.B.C. is doing with the taxpayers' money. Therefore, I formally oppose the consideration of this problem because I maintain we are entitled to know the proportion paid by the companies in the sponsored programs so as to determine if really and truly we are getting programs of a reasonable quality and which are reasonably justified in terms of the money spent on them by the taxpayers of this country.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. McGrath and then Mr. Fisher.

Mr. McGRATH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to support the remarks of Messrs. Smith, Bell and Tremblay, to an extent. I, too, am rather surprised that one month after the C.B.C. agreed to our motion—after the motion was put—that these figures would be given to the committee, we find that the information is still not available to us. As a matter of fact, I understood at that time—I think it was around June 2—that we would have this information, or at least a part of it, one week later.

To my mind, this is perhaps the most important aspect of our hearings, namely, the cost to the C.B.C. of producing commercial television programs and the amount realized from the sale of these programs to sponsors.

Reference was made, in the letter from the board of directors, to the highest amount the market will bear. This phrase has been used quite often in the advertising business. Whenever I hear this statement, a question comes to my mind: why does not the C.B.C. use participating sponsors, or alternative sponsors? If they cannot realize the full amount of a specific television program from one sponsor, why can they not sell it to several sponsors who can share the cost? I feel in this way the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation would realize the full amount of the show.

Also, I would like to deal with the remarks of Mr. Pickersgill. He referred to the minister's statement and used as an analogy the C.N.R. vis-a-vis the Canadian Pacific Railway. I do not think there is any analogy here at all because the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is in a rather unique position in Canada in that it has the only electronic medium of advertising in the country and, consequently, it can be said this is a monopoly. This would naturally put them in a preferred position as far as advertising is concerned.

In conclusion, I might say, Mr. Chairman, that the suggestion was further made that the board of directors should run the C.B.C. and there was a suggestion that the C.B.C. should not be run by a parliamentary committee. In order for this committee to make its report and properly fulfil its function, I suggest to you, sir, it is absolutely essential we have this information. Also, in view of the fact that this session of parliament is drawing to a close we should have it as soon as possible.



Mr. McCLEAVE: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to speak on the motion I now move, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the committee is of the opinion—

Mr. FISHER: I have a motion—

Mr. McCLEAVE: —that the committee is of the opinion that—

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I am rising to a point of order. When you recognized Mr. McGrath you agreed to recognize Mr. Fisher next.

The CHAIRMAN: I did not know that Mr. Fisher wished to move his motion now.

Mr. FISHER: I wanted to make a motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Then Mr. Fisher, by all means.

Mr. FISHER: Mr. Chairman, we have the paradox of the situation on the one hand of having a motion and then having a further word from management in the form of a request for reconsideration from the board of directors of a motion made by this committee. I think there is enough seriousness in this request coming from the board of directors. I am very glad they made the request. In view of their request, I would like to move, seconded by Mr. Robichaud, that this request for financial figures of television programs be referred to the House of Commons for consideration and decision.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fisher, Mr. Robichaud and gentlemen, I feel that the motion is out of order. In the second edition of Beauchesne, citation 318, it states:

There is no such proceeding as a motion to reconsider a decision, in British parliamentary procedure.

Actually, this committee is master of its own destiny. We have been given certain powers by parliament. Our order of reference is that we can call for persons, papers and records; they are practically all-embracing. I feel this motion is out of order, Mr. Fisher.

Mr. FISHER: Mr. Chairman, as you say, we are masters of our own destiny. It is for that very reason I think we can refer this to the larger body. I will admit this is unusual.

The CHAIRMAN: It has, seemingly, never been done.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): May I ask Mr. Fisher how he proposes to do this?

Mr. FISHER: By making a report to the House of Commons, that we ask for their consideration and decision on this question.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): Our decision here will be contained in the report when it is brought forward.

Mr. FISHER: Mr. Chairman, I still say, as you suggested, that as we are masters of our own destiny we can entertain this motion.

I would like to point out that it is perhaps unusual for an opposition member to refer something to the main body of the House of Commons, where the government has such a large majority, but I think, in view of the seriousness of the request for reconsideration, that that would be a proper thing to do in the light of the principle that seems to be involved.

The CHAIRMAN: When I said, Mr. Fisher, that we are masters of our own destiny I meant within the parliamentary rules. Once again, the rule I read to you was 318, that there is no such proceeding as a motion to reconsider a decision, in British parliamentary procedure. I would hate to be the first committee chairman in the long history of British rule to change that.

Mr. FISHER: Would you read it again, please.



The CHAIRMAN:

There is no such proceeding as a motion to reconsider a decision, in British parliamentary procedure.

Mr. FISHER: If that is true, there was no point in bringing this letter before the committee.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): He is bound to—

Mr. FISHER: The discussion is completely out of order and the decision has been made.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, proceed Mr. Pickersgill, on a point of order.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Fisher's motion is not a motion to reconsider this matter. It is not a motion on the part of the committee to reconsider the matter, but a motion on the part of this committee, presumably by way of report, to report to the house on it, and get a verdict from the house.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Smith?

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): If I may speak to the point, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Proceed.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): First of all, Mr. Chairman, we should remember that we were given certain responsibilities in the terms of reference, in which the question of the financial structure of the corporation is clearly identified. Therefore, after some considerable discussion, during a large percentage of which Mr. Fisher was not present, we came to a conclusion that it was essential, as a committee decision, to have this information in order to assess the financial background and structure of the corporation. This was made by the committee. As Mr. Bell points out, while some at the time did oppose it, it now becomes the view and decision of the committee itself.

I feel there is little purpose in re-arguing a case in which there has been no new evidence submitted to us.

I would say at the same time that we are all fully cognizant of the responsibility we take in asking for the information and it is because that we regard it in the best interest of the corporation itself that we do so.

The CHAIRMAN: Actually, ladies and gentlemen, we did make a decision during debate on the original Smith motion, of which we are talking. The decision, when we make one, and when we ask for persons or papers or records, is actually an order, and we ordered the C.B.C. to produce these costs. Now, I do not see how we can change that.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Chairman I am seeking to assist in this matter. There is a procedure—and I cannot lay my finger on it at the present time, and I have not a Beauchesne—Whereby the order of the house can be rescinded. I remember, because it has been done during my parliamentary experience. I should not say that, but since I have been in Ottawa. I have known that to be done. It may require unanimous consent.

I was wondering, Mr. Chairman, if that point could be taken under advisement and if the Chair should not adjourn this and perhaps at the next meeting we could complete it.

The CHAIRMAN: At the present time the Chair is going to rule this motion out of order. It has not been put to the committee yet. I have never accepted it as a motion and, for the time being, I will have to rule it out of order; if I am mistaken, we will consider it at a later date.

Mr. FISHER: Did the letter from the C.B.C. board of directors make the suggestion that if we do decide to go ahead with this we should do it in camera?



The CHAIRMAN: No. They merely said—and I am breaking in here—

Accordingly, the board wishes to make a formal request that the committee reconsider its decision, at least in so far as publication and public consideration of the information in question is concerned.

Mr. FISHER: Well, in fact, that is asking us to hear it privately.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): Mr. Fisher posed the question as to whether or not this could be considered in camera. As I understand it, Mr. Chairman, any evidence taken in camera cannot usefully serve any purpose in the development of any recommendations which this committee may care to make in respect to its final report; in other words, if evidence is taken into account there is no opportunity to refer to it or usefully have it serve as a basis for a recommendation in our report. Is that correct?

The CHAIRMAN: In so far as I am concerned, it is correct.

Mr. McCLEAVE: Mr. Chairman, could I now present a motion?

The CHAIRMAN: Have you a seconder?

Mr. McCLEAVE: Yes, Mr. Smith. The motion is that the committee is of the opinion that no new reasons have been advanced by the C.B.C. board of directors that the committee should change its original decision and their formal request be rejected.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I do not think; actually, I cannot see—

Mr. McGRATH: Mr. Chairman, will you read the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: If I read the motion, it is before the committee.

Mr. McGRATH: Would you then ask the mover to read it.

Mr. McCLEAVE: My motion is that the committee is of the opinion that no new reasons have been advanced by the C.B.C. board of directors that the committee should change its original decision and their formal request be rejected.

The CHAIRMAN: Does anyone wish to talk on this point of order, as a point of order?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I think if a motion is made by any member of the committee, whether that motion is in order or out of order, the Chair is under the obligation to read it to the committee, and then rule it out. That is a standard rule and, therefore, I think you should take the motion, read it, and then rule whether you consider it in order or not.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): Referring to Mr. McCleave's motion, I personally feel that if we are just at the motion that if the letter was filed it would suit the purpose, and make me happy.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you repeat that, Mr. Bell.

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): It would make me happy, Mr. Chairman, if a simple motion was made that this letter from the secretary of the board of directors be filed.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): I would like to say in connection with the second motion prior to your original ruling, Mr. Chairman, that I subscribe to the point of view which Mr. Bell has offered now. I consider Mr. McCleave's motion is redundant, in view of your original decision, but I suggest the other motion, which Mr. Bell has indicated, if Mr. McCleave will withdraw his motion.

Mr. McCLEAVE: I have no objection to withdrawing it, but I would point out there is a formal request from the board of directors and it can be met in only one way. If we simply say we are going to file it, it perhaps should be an act on which we really made no decision, or made a decision which would seem to be ruled on, and therefore the purpose of it is to say that we have considered it, are of the opinion we cannot meet it, and therefore reject it.



The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bell, have you a motion?

Mr. BELL (*Saint John-Albert*): I do not want to be difficult here; Mr. Smith has supported me. I feel the indication will be given, if we file it or lay it on the table, and we do not have to express ourselves in this redundant way.

The CHAIRMAN: The motion by Mr. Bell, (*Saint John-Albert*), seconded by Mr. Smith: that the letter identified as signed by Mr. Barry MacDonald dated June 30, addressed to myself, from the board of directors, be filed.

Mr. CHAMBERS: Before the motion is put—I am not making another motion; it is not possible at this time, but perhaps as a suggestion of the method of dealing with it, that the chairman be requested to advise the board that the committee cannot vary its motion, based on your ruling. This might be another way of dealing with it.

Mr. FORTIN (*Interpretation*): Mr. Chairman, there are so many motions that my head is swimming with them and I do not know quite which one to speak to. But the request of Mr. Pickersgill to adjourn the question—the request put by the C.B.C. to consider our request—leaves the impression that the sole object is to delay the production of the documents. It is a dilatory process; the session is ending, and if we reconsider our decision I think the C.B.C. will simply gain time. The session will end without our having obtained the information required. So I am in favour of retaining the decision taken a month ago.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Chairman, since my name has been directly called into question, I do think it is an extraordinary thing for any member of the majority—

The CHAIRMAN: You realize we are on the Bell motion now?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Exactly; and I am opposed to it. I intend to vote against it; I think it is a gross discourtesy to a body set up by parliament last session for the purpose of directing the C.B.C. This committee was not set up for that purpose. When we had a request previously, it was only a request from management, plus some, what I thought very convincing reasons given to us by the Minister of National Revenue.

Mr. CHAMBERS: And a member of the board.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I beg your pardon?

Mr. CHAMBERS: And a member of the board; Mr. Dunsmore also.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: And Mr. Dunsmore also. I was really disturbed. I must say the argument against the production of these documents was not as strong as I thought it should have been; but when the minister drew our attention to the fact that the C.B.C. in the near future—and speaking as a minister; a member of the government—was going to be faced with competition from private television, and there would be a situation analogous to that existing between the two railways, I thought his argument—as I said earlier—was unanswerable.

This matter went before a duly appointed board, a board that parliament provided for only last year—over my objections, I might say; but parliament did make this decision. The board was filled with appointees of the present government. Most of them, I do not think, the kind of people who would be very apt to vote for my friends. But that is irrelevant—

The CHAIRMAN: Would you stick to the Bell motion?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Yes. So that I would have no motive except a proper one for supporting the request of the board of directors, and I support it because it seems to me that if this committee—which is, after all, a small part of parlia-



ment—were to decide on it, rather than the body parliament provided for the governing of the C.B.C., and should interfere with the internal documents, it would be a very unsound principle—and I will vote against this motion.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make one very quick point. There are occasions, unfortunately, when views held by appointed bodies and the elected representatives are going to come in conflict. I maintain the principle that where public moneys are involved, those responsible to the public for those moneys should at no time be hesitant in expressing their views on any subject in relation—in this case—to the particular corporation under consideration.

For this reason I think we have every right, representing—as we do—the taxpaying public, to express our views as forcibly as we can on their behalf.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Question.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tremblay.

Mr. TREMBLAY (*Interpretation*): Mr. Chairman, I certainly think that once again we are faced with an attempt at diverting our attention from this matter. We asked for information some weeks ago. We still have not received that information, and we have to, apparently—we have to come out heavily in defence of our point of view, which is that we should get this information.

I maintain that we are entitled to it and that if we accept that we should reconsider the question, I think that the C.B.C. will be authorized to reconsider all the requests for information which we have already put forth and for which we still have not received the answers. I maintain that we must refuse to reconsider the matter, if the committee's judgment has any value at all, and we do not have to go back on a majority decision already taken.

Mr. CHAMBERS: Question.

Mr. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, I hope that the motion passes. But it is my understanding that following the passing you might be communicating with the C.B.C., indicating what has transpired today?

The CHAIRMAN: By all means, yes.

Mr. TAYLOR: At the same time, could you ask the C.B.C. to indicate when the figures might be made available?

The CHAIRMAN: The figures are ready right now; I know that.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Chairman, the request now before us—which has been made by the Board of Governors of the C.B.C.—

The CHAIRMAN: Not the Board of "Governors",—the Board of Directors.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: —the Board of Directors—pardon me—of the C.B.C. is a very important one. I feel it is of such importance that a decision on this request should be taken by the whole house, by parliament, instead of a committee representing a very small proportion of the members of this house.

The CHAIRMAN: Ready for the question, gentlemen? The motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the letter, which I identified, from the board of directors be filed.

Motion agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: I declare the motion carried.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): I wonder if I might speak on a point of order?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): You will recall I also asked for some information on the percentage of films imported into Canada, in relation to the total Canadian content. This is also a long time outstanding, and I would respectfully ask this be filed at the earliest possible date.



Secondly, sir, may I suggest—

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Smith, that is here, and we can read it into the record, if you wish, or distribute it.

Mr. SMITH (*Calgary South*): Whether it is read into the record or distributed, is not important.

I have a second point. May I ask that at some future time the commercial head of the corporation be asked to appear, so we can examine him about the various items of information that are available?

The CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Nowlan will not be in town on Monday or Tuesday. I would therefore suggest, if it is agreeable to you, we reconvene this afternoon at three o'clock. Is that agreeable?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I think before we make a decision we should know what we are reconvening for.

The CHAIRMAN: We had Mr. Fisher—

Mr. FISHER: You told us, Mr. Chairman, this would be considered by the steering committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I know but at that time I did not realize Mr. Nowlan would be available this afternoon. We can have a steering committee meeting first.

Mr. FISHER: I think we should have a steering committee meeting first.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall reconvene this afternoon at three o'clock; and we can have the steering committee meeting at 2:30 in my room.

Mr. CHAMBERS: Why not have the steering committee meeting right now?

The CHAIRMAN: We can have it right now.

Mr. MCINTOSH: May I ask what item we are on on the agenda before us?

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): "Controversial and political broadcasting"!

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fisher, on a point of order?

Mr. FISHER: I gave you notice of a motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Could that hold off until this afternoon?

Mr. FISHER: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: We have agreed—this afternoon, at three o'clock.

Mr. MCCLEAVE: On a question of privilege, could it be noted I was in attendance at Tuesday's meeting?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. McCleave.

## AFTERNOON SESSION

THURSDAY, July 2, 1959.  
3.15 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Miss Aitken and gentlemen, we have a quorum. Thank you for returning so promptly.

Now, I think we should go along with Mr. Fisher's motion of this morning, which was seconded by Mr. Robichaud, that Mr. Nowlan be invited to come and inform the committee on the advice he gave Mr. Bushnell on programming.

We have the Honourable George Nowlan on my right; I think most of you know him. Mr. Fisher, would you like to proceed.

Mr. FISHER: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like a report given to the committee as a whole, as to what the recommendations of the steering committee were in their meeting after the last sitting.

The CHAIRMAN: Possibly I should have done that. There was a division on the steering committee, pre-lunch, I think mainly because Mr. Fisher was



leaving this afternoon; I was leaving this afternoon and Mr. Smith is leaving tomorrow, and someone else was not available. The Honourable George Nowlan was not available on Monday and Tuesday.

I must admit it was a very friendly meeting. I do not think it was unanimous at any time that we call Mr. Nowlan now instead of tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock, but the majority voted that Mr. Nowlan should be called this afternoon at 3.15 p.m.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I wonder if, Mr. Chairman, before we proceed, I could ask to have a correction made in the record of the last meeting. I did not do it this morning because I had not read it through. It is at the very end where I am reported as saying:

Then I will comply with it.

My recollection is that I said:

If this form of closure is to be applied, I will have to comply with it.

Mr. CHAMBERS: I do not recollect that.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): None of us recollect it.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Well, that is my recollection.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fisher, please—and gentlemen, please, quiet.

Mr. FISHER: Mr. Nowlan, section 21 of part (d) of the Broadcasting Act says:

“Minister” means the member of the Queen’s Privy Council for Canada who is designated by the governor in council as the minister through whom the corporation is to be accountable to parliament for the conduct of its affairs.

Sir, I have searched through your remarks last year, when this was coming through, and I can find no real elaboration of it. I wonder if you could tell us how you interpret that phrase “is to be accountable to parliament for the conduct of its affairs”?

The CHAIRMAN: Before we get into this, Mr. Fisher, I would suggest that the Honourable Mr. Nowlan will be available for any questions that are not strictly on the motion during the estimates which are coming up some time within the next six weeks.

Hon. GEORGE C. NOWLAN (*Minister of National Revenue*): Two to three months, anyway.

The CHAIRMAN: I would appreciate it very much, and I know other members of the committee would appreciate it, if we could stick right to the motion and the motion, as you recall, is that Mr. Nowlan be invited to come and inform the committee on the *advice*—and that is in italics—that he gave Mr. Bushnell on programming.

Mr. FISHER: Mr. Minister, does that clause, naming you in the Broadcasting Act, give you the power to give advice to the C.B.C. board of directors in connection with programming?

Mr. NOWLAN: That is a legal matter on which you would have to get the opinion of the Department of Justice.

Mr. FISHER: Are you prepared at this time to make a statement in connection with this question of advice on programming?

Mr. NOWLAN: I am prepared to answer any questions which are asked of me with respect to advice which I gave to Mr. Bushnell or any other officials of the C.B.C.

Mr. FISHER: Well, do you go along again with the remarks that you made on June 23 in the House of Commons. It is at page 5041, and I quote:

I have had discussions from time to time with the manager and Mr. Ouimet before his illness about various C.B.C. programs, as to



costs and so on and so forth. I do not remember discussing this particular program. If I did I expressed my appreciation of it, because it is a program for which I have had a very high appreciation. I have made no representations to the C.B.C., directly or indirectly, at any time or at any place, with respect to any program of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. NOWLAN: I go along generally with that statement, yes, subject to one or two specific matters, which I would have in mind where, perhaps, I have spoken specifically about matters.

Mr. FISHER: Could I then refer you to this statement of Mr. Bushnell on page 557 of the evidence on Tuesday where he said:

In my position in the last six months—and prior to that, after the appointment of Mr. Ouimet and myself, we have had occasion to discuss matters with Mr. Nowlan, and—in my judgment—quite rightly. Mr. Nowlan has intimated from time to time some of the things that he—how shall I put it?—that he felt were not being properly administered.

I asked the question then:

You saw this question as, not one of principle but one of administration?

Mr. BUSHNELL: I do not—

Mr. FISHER: I mean, the question of Preview Commentary?

Mr. BUSHNELL: Yes.

Now, my question in this regard, Mr. Chairman, is this: in any of your discussions, to which Mr. Bushnell is referring here, you never at any time referred to programming as such; it was only in so far as costs were concerned?

Mr. NOWLAN: No, that is not exactly correct.

Mr. FISHER: Well, could you elaborate in what way you went beyond the discussion of costs?

Mr. NOWLAN: Yes, I could give some examples with respect to that.

There was a case a little while ago—I am not sure whether you would call this programming, or what the exact definition of it would be—but I was approached by a colleague of mine, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, with respect to a proposal to bring in from Europe a person who had been refused a visa by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration because that department considered this person undesirable. I prefer not to give the name. I can, but I think Mr. Pickersgill will remember that it is a principle in the department not to give individual names, and I prefer not to do so.

In connection with this particular program, the director wanted to bring this person in for an interview because he said he thought it would be interesting for the people of Canada. I dare say it would be; but I thought the cost of bringing him in was something at which management might take a look. But it was beyond that stage when it came to my attention, because the producer had said, if you do not give a visa to bring him into Canada we are going to bring him into New York, and we believe we can get him by the American immigration officials; and we will bring him into New York and “pipe” him from New York to the C.B.C. and you will have to carry the program anyway.

As I said, this representation was made to me by my colleague, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and reinforced again by very prominent officials—I do not want to involve the names of civil servants—in the Department of External Affairs, officials in whom everyone here in this room would have the utmost confidence, who thought this would be a very bad thing to do.

I passed the information on to Mr. Bushnell, and I told him this representation had been made to me and I asked him to give it very careful consideration, because I thought this was a matter where a producer of the C.B.C.



was defying the government and involving the taxpayer in very unusual expenses in order to produce this program. As a result of my statement to Mr. Bushnell that particular interview was cancelled and that person was not brought from Europe.

Then we have the case—it is a matter which probably should not have got in the press, and frankly I do not know just how it got there—but it has been referred to on various occasions as the case of the Algerian. You can call it the Algerian case, where I received a call from the Under Secretary of State. The Prime Minister being absent, I received the call from the Under Secretary of State, Mr. Norman Robertson, who informed me that the French ambassador, or the ambassador of the Republic of France, had called on him that afternoon and protested about a proposal of the C.B.C. to interview certain persons. I do not know their names. All I know is that they were representatives, presumably of the Algerian so-called government—or I presume the president called them rebels, I am not sure—and at the same time our ambassador at Paris had been called in by the Prime Minister of the French republic. An official protest had been registered with our ambassador about our proposal to interview these people.

I again called Mr. Bushnell and told him of the representations which had been made to me. Mr. Bushnell said—and I remember there was no hesitation—if the representations are coming at that level the interview will not take place. It was only two days later when Radio Canada, Montreal, carried the same program, but with a different individual, which I again discussed with Mr. Bushnell and said that I thought that was an example of loose management and defiance of management in the organization.

Also, I discussed the Madame d'Youville case with him, because I had said in the House of Commons I had no warning of this. Usually I speak without considering or preparing any statement and, you may remember, I was asked about that matter in the House of Commons and I said disciplinary action would be taken. Afterwards, I was asked by Mr. Bushnell what I meant by disciplinary action and, as I recall it, I said "I think the people responsible for it should be fired." He was quite shocked at that.

Mr. FISHER: Could you give us the date of that?

Mr. NOWLAN: I cannot remember. If you would look up *Hansard* you would find it. It was within twenty-four hours after I made the statement in *Hansard*. Mr. Bushnell said he did not think that could be done. I remember asking him: "has anyone ever been fired in this organization for disciplinary purposes?"—and he said he thought the last one was in 1942. I said that perhaps it was time somebody else was fired around here, to put some discipline in it.

Now, there have been several cases like that.

I have a case in connection with the financial side. As you know, under the act, I have to recommend,—and I changed this myself, or, at least, the government did. Under the old act, as I recall it, anything over \$25,000 had to be recommended by the minister. The act was changed last year, I think to \$100,000.

But, in dealing with leases, any lease over five years had to be recommended by the minister.

I was presented a paper some months ago, in March or April, wherein I was asked to sign a submission to lease what they called an audience participation studio in Montreal for a ten-year period at a rental of \$62,000 a year. I told Mr. Bushnell that I thought that was too much money to pay for a theatre. I will be frank and try to recall what I said—"for people who wanted to get in out of the rain, to go in and watch a show". I asked him if it had been referred to the directors and he said no. I said I would not sign it and that that was a matter he had to discuss with the directors. They had powers in connection



with financial control and this matter had to be recommended by the directors before I signed it; and I have to give it consideration, even after that. The matter was referred to the directors and I have not heard anything more about it since.

Now, there have been a dozen cases such as that—speaking freely, probably ten or twelve in all.

Mr. Bushnell and I have been very close. We have talked freely and met two or three times a week in discussing the affairs of the corporation; these are some of the matters we have discussed.

Mr. FISHER: Mr. Chairman, did the minister make only one reference, in his conversation with Mr. Bushnell, to firing?

Mr. NOWLAN: I think that is the only reference I made to firing.

I remember once I told him, in dealing with some of these cases where I thought the thing was very loosely run, that the C.B.C. reminded me of a cabbage patch, with a great lot of heads, and each one trying to get bigger than the other—and you know what happens when they get too big, they burst.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Not roll?

Mr. NOWLAN: No, not roll.

Mr. FISHER: Did you consider at any time under the legislation that your representations in these matters could have been taken to the board of directors as a whole?

Mr. NOWLAN: That was a matter for management and not for me. I discussed these matters freely and in a friendly and frank way with Mr. Bushnell and Mr. Ouimet, before his illness, time and time again. I never gave him any suggestion of what I thought he should do; never gave him any direction; never gave him or Mr. Ouimet, or any other officer of the corporation, any instructions whatsoever. I said: "these are matters to which I think you should give consideration and apply your best judgment to them". And, very often, as in the case of this Algerian matter, I was told afterwards that Mr. Jennings knew nothing about it and things were being done without any references, presumably, to the directors in Ottawa. I think it was on that occasion when I referred to the cabbage patch; but I may have more than once.

Mr. FISHER: You would reconfirm today what you said in the house on June 23, and I quote from page 5040:

I knew nothing about it—

The CHAIRMAN: That is page 5040 in what?

Mr. FISHER: In *Hansard*.

I knew nothing about it until this morning, when I heard on the radio that this decision had been made. That was the first intimation I had of it, and I also heard of the resignations.

The CHAIRMAN: Is this on the Algerian question?

Mr. FISHER: No, on Preview Commentary.

Mr. NOWLAN: That statement is correct.

Mr. FISHER: Have you read the evidence that Mr. Bushnell presented to the committee on Tuesday?

Mr. NOWLAN: Well, it all depends on how you spell "reading". I got a copy of it after lunch and I have glanced over his evidence. If I was speaking as a lawyer I would not say I read it, but I have looked at it.

Mr. FISHER: Could you give us an explanation as to why Mr. Bushnell used the expression in connection with the withdrawal of Preview Commentary that "heads will roll"?

Mr. NOWLAN: I cannot give any explanation whatsoever of that.



Mr. FISHER: You cannot give any explanation as to how he came to that conclusion? You have no idea how your name came to be included as one of the heads that would roll, either in communication with Mr. Jennings or Mr. Walker?

Mr. NOWLAN: I do not. I must say that I wondered if that was a threat or a promise, because certainly there is nothing I would rather do, frankly, than be rid of the responsibility of reporting to parliament for the C.B.C. I told Mr. Bushnell that on many occasions, and I told him I was going to try to get the Prime Minister to appoint someone else because I was sick and tired of these criticisms coming in from all over the country, from members of parliament, from my colleagues, and from the public generally. I said that life was too short to be bothered with this thing and that I was going to get out of it. So, as I said, if that is a promise, I hope it is fulfilled.

Mr. FISHER: When you referred to your colleagues, whom do you mean?

Mr. NOWLAN: My colleagues in the cabinet and in the House of Commons and, probably, including yourself.

Mr. FISHER: Did you ever take any of these representations on programming from your colleagues to Mr. Bushnell?

Mr. NOWLAN: Not in any specific way. I may have mentioned, and I undoubtedly have, many programs, sometimes commending him and sometimes criticizing him. I may have given my own personal opinion, and may have said: my colleagues are sore about this or irritated about that, or did appreciate that, or something of that kind. I have no power with the C.B.C. I am in the unfortunate position of receiving a lot of blame and having no responsibility for anything.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pickersgill knows what you are talking about.

Mr. NOWLAN: We may have told him.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I had responsibility too.

Mr. NOWLAN: I have, too, as Minister of National Revenue but not as the minister responsible for whatever comes up in respect of the policy of the C.B.C.

Mr. FISHER: Does the minister remember the discussion last year in respect of the Broadcasting Act relative to the possibility of political interference with the C.B.C.?

Mr. NOWLAN: I remember the act and the discussion. I do not remember any specific statement. I remember such matters being discussed ever since I recall there being a C.B.C.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you rather hold this until the estimates are up in the house.

Mr. FISHER: Do you remember making this statement:

As the bill stands, the president and the vice-president are members of the board of directors. They have their associates there and, to use an expression used yesterday, they are insulated as far as it is humanly possible to do so.

Do you still subscribe to this, that they are insulated as far as it is possible to do so?

The CHAIRMAN: From what page are you reading?

Mr. FISHER: From *Hansard* of August 26, 1958, at page 4137.

Mr. NOWLAN: I would subscribe to that, I think. There is the word, "insulate", or "insulation". In referring to interference in any way, shape or form I would subscribe to it entirely one hundred per cent.

Mr. FISHER: At any time after June 23 when you made your statement in the house, did you have any further discussions with Mr. Bushnell or



any other member of the C.B.C.'s board of directors on this question of resignations or the question of the board changing its decision to put the "commentary" back.

Mr. NOWLAN: When was June 23?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: The day the committee was in Toronto.

Mr. NOWLAN: I had a discussion with some members of the board of directors on the morning of the twenty-third—no.

An hon. MEMBER: The twenty-fourth?

Mr. NOWLAN: Yes; I remember seeing Mr. Halpenny's picture in the paper. That is the only reason I could fix the date. I saw the chairman's picture in the paper as having been interviewed. This was on the morning I arrived. If you were there on the twenty-third, then I was there on the twenty-fourth. I was on my way to St. Catharines to a taxation conference. I met some of these directors and discussed the situation generally; but I had no discussion whatsoever about changing any decision. I did not know a thing about it until I got on the train that night, having bought the next morning's *Globe and Mail*. That was when I read that this decision had been taken.

Mr. FISHER: That is the decision to put the program back on the air?

Mr. NOWLAN: Yes.

Mr. FISHER: You at no time in discussion with the board of directors suggested it should be left on the air or taken off?

Mr. NOWLAN: I had no discussion about it. I took it that this decision had been made by management. I was trying to get information about this matter of the resignations and it was just a general conversation over a cup of coffee. Then I proceeded on to St. Catharines.

Mr. FISHER: I will repeat the former question I asked. There is no way that you can see that Mr. Bushnell got the idea in his head, that his head, your head and that of Mr. Ouimet would roll if this program were not taken off at a definite time?

Mr. NOWLAN: As I said before, if he had the idea my head would roll vis-a-vis the C.B.C., then I hope he is correct. As far as any inference that his head or Mr. Ouimet's or anyone else's is concerned he did not get it from me. Going back over these other occasions, like the Algerian matter, the Mother d'Youville question, the case of the person being brought in from Europe and also the background of the strike, where I was told afterwards if they had exercised any control here the strike would not have happened, I probably told them, "You had better tighten up this organization or something will happen to somebody around here." I do not make any bones about probably having said something like that; but in respect of having made reference to it in connection with some particular program, I never did.

Mr. FISHER: Is it possible Mr. Jennings might have interpreted what you said to apply to that particular program?

The CHAIRMAN: Do you mean Mr. Jennings or Mr. Bushnell?

Mr. FISHER: Mr. Bushnell.

Mr. NOWLAN: I cannot tell you anything about his interpretation.

Mr. FISHER: In relation to the question of heads rolling, is it true that the only way the heads would roll, in view of the clause in the act on good behaviour, would be if the government would make a recommendation to the house and show cause.

Mr. NOWLAN: I have never had any reason to check on that matter, and study it, and I cannot tell you.



Mr. FISHER: In other words, you had not thought out the corollary of the remarks you made about firing?

Mr. NOWLAN: I was thinking of the persons underneath responsible, presumably, for certain aspects of management who, apparently from things coming to me from time to time, were very lax in their administration; and I told him he better tighten up.

Mr. FISHER: Do you still hold that view?

Mr. NOWLAN: Yes.

Mr. FISHER: In other words you believe that there should be firings in the C.B.C.?

Mr. NOWLAN: I do not know about firing. I think there has to be a tightening up of administrative control.

Mr. CHAMBERS: I take it Mr. Nowlan in his answer to Mr. Fisher said that he did not at any time say anything to Mr. Bushnell which would lead him to believe he would be fired if Preview Commentary specifically was not cancelled.

Mr. NOWLAN: That is exactly right. I did not infer that to Mr. Bushnell or Mr. Ouimet by saying that in any shape or form.

Mr. CHAMBERS: Did Mr. Bushnell ever report to you that anyone else had threatened in such a way?

Mr. NOWLAN: No.

Mr. CHAMBERS: As the minister reporting for the C.B.C., would you expect that Mr. Bushnell would report any such occurrence to you?

Mr. NOWLAN: Mr. Bushnell and I, ever since Mr. Ouimet's illness, have carried on frank and free discussions two or three times a week, although not every week; sometimes we would not meet for two weeks. There is no doubt in my mind that if anything like that had been said to Mr. Bushnell he would have mentioned it to me. He never mentioned it in any shape or form.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I have one or two questions. Mr. Chambers has pretty well cleared up the point on which I was going to question Mr. Nowlan. I will review it very briefly. It came out in the evidence on Tuesday. It came out in the evidence on June 11 that the question of taking this program off the air first came up in the C.B.C. and that Mr. Peers was summoned to Ottawa and was told about this on the fifteenth by Mr. Jennings, and that for the balance of that week right up until Sunday evening, the twenty-first, this matter was a matter of discussion, or lack of discussion, between management and the employees, and that the program was finally taken off beginning the twenty-third. Mr. Nowlan told us he never heard anything about this at all until the morning of the twenty-third.

Mr. NOWLAN: Yes.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: He told parliament that.

Mr. NOWLAN: Yes.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: The question I wanted to ask Mr. Nowlan is—I think Mr. Chambers has asked it but I would like to repeat it—during that whole period from June 11 until June 23, Mr. Bushnell never suggested to you at any time he felt his position was in jeopardy?

Mr. NOWLAN: Never.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: And he never at any time during that period mentioned the program Preview Commentary to you?

Mr. NOWLAN: To the best of my recollection I think that is correct.



Mr. FISHER: In the representations that you received from your colleagues, was there any specific mention that you recall of the program Preview Commentary?

Mr. NOWLAN: I think there probably was from time to time. There was specific mention of many programs.

Mr. FISHER: But did you, in turn, pass on the representations on that specific program to Mr. Bushnell?

Mr. NOWLAN: In this way I did. In the office we followed the practice in respect of all letters of criticism or praise of a program—and often there were both on the same program, some criticizing and some praising—we followed the practice, and still do, of sending the letters on to the C.B.C. management for their attention and such action as they see fit. We have a special form letter and a girl who does nothing else but type these out and send them over to the C.B.C. management. So I have undoubtedly sent many letters to the C.B.C. management, some criticizing and others praising.

Mr. FISHER: Were any of those letters written in a formal way from members or from your colleagues in the cabinet?

Mr. NOWLAN: As far as I know I have never received a written representation in any way, shape or form from any of my colleagues in the cabinet in respect of any aspects of the C.B.C. programming, or otherwise, except a formal letter from the Minister of Finance dealing with the budget and asking me to scrutinize it carefully, and so forth.

Mr. FISHER: I bring this name up because it has been brought up in the house and in committee. Have you any information of Mr. Grosart ever giving any views on Preview Commentary to Mr. Bushnell?

Mr. NOWLAN: I have no information on that. I can tell you this: when I heard of this thing, the charges of clandestine political interference or influence, or whatever the term may be watered down to by now, I was shocked because I thought if there was one person who had honestly stood against any political influence it was myself and my colleagues.

I heard from some of my friends in the press gallery that the rumour was Mr. Grosart had done this and I 'phoned Mr. Grosart. I did not believe it, but I wanted to verify it in my own mind. I telephoned Mr. Grosart and he said at no time did he make any representation to Mr. Bushnell in respect of this or any other program on the C.B.C.

Mr. FISHER: You were invited here to give us information on the advice you had given to Mr. Bushnell. At the time the new act was being introduced in the house last year, you said one of the duties, or you suggested one of the duties of this committee would be to review the legislation in so far as the C.B.C. board of directors was concerned and how it is working. In the light of this situation and the misunderstanding about the advice, are you of the opinion that that should be one of the prime functions of this committee? I am asking this partly as a member of this committee to find out whether this is actually working at the present time in so far as the C.B.C. board of directors is concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fisher, I do not know how you got the "advice" in there. I think that is a question for the estimates. Could you reword it?

Mr. NOWLAN: I will answer it in thirty seconds. I think it is the function of this committee to make recommendations on anything it sees fit in respect of legislation, administration or otherwise. Quite frankly, I would hope that all members of parliament in this room would agree with me this is not the time at the end of a session, if we want to get home some time, to introduce any amendments or any recommendations which might involve amendments,



if the government decided to introduce amendments accordingly. In other words, I hope this session will conclude without any more legislation on the order paper, in any event, in respect of the C.B.C.

Mr. FISHER: Aside from the conversations in Toronto, how many conversations have you had in concert with the C.B.C. board of directors as a group on the relationship of you as the minister to the C.B.C. and the board of directors. I ask this as a matter of information.

Mr. NOWLAN: I do not think there have been any conversations in respect of our relationship, although that is a very general phrase. I remember on more than one occasion, when the directors or some of them have asked me what I felt should be done and I have told them that is a matter for the corporation. I looked to the corporation as being management plus directors. I was not telling them what they should do. They made recommendations. It would be up to me and the government as to whether or not they would be implemented.

Mr. FISHER: On this particular point, do I understand that any advice you gave to Mr. Bushnell would go to the C.B.C. board of directors?

Mr. NOWLAN: I do not agree with your word "advice", although I have been going along with it because it was used in the evidence. I think it was between you and Mr. Pickersgill, and Mr. Pickersgill suggested the word "advice".

Mr. PICKERSGILL: It was Mr. Fisher.

Mr. NOWLAN: As I have said, there have been conversations time and time again, if you want to call that advice.

Mr. BRASSARD: Mr. Chairman, may I ask my questions in French?

The CHAIRMAN: By all means.

Mr. BRASSARD (*Interpretation*): Mr. Chairman, if the honourable minister would be good enough to enlighten us on the two following questions I would very much appreciate it. The first question is, I find it hard to understand that the C.B.C. has taken back three gentlemen who had put out accusations to the effect that the independence of the C.B.C. was in jeopardy. If the accusations were not founded, there should be disciplinary measures taken against them. If, on the other hand, they were in fact founded, then I am surprised, in either case, that the three employees were allowed to go back to work.

The second question is, the decision of the administrative council—

The INTERPRETER: I suppose that is board of directors.

Mr. BRASSARD: Yes.

(*Interpretation continued*): —to reverse the decision of Mr. Bushnell was taken late in the afternoon of June 24. The same evening on the eleven o'clock program Mr. Bushnell had pointed out at this stage—I am not quoting his words verbatim but in substance—that if the decision he had made to drop the program had not been reversed by the board of directors it would not have been possible for him to continue his work. I would appreciate it if you would enlighten us on these two questions.

Mr. NOWLAN: The taking back of the three men, or their return to work if they have returned, is a matter of which I first heard this morning again in the *Globe and Mail*. I had no knowledge of it whatsoever. It is a matter of decision of management and, apparently in this case, I would take it it was a decision of Mr. Walker himself. I do not know whether or not he confirmed it with Mr. Bushnell or whether he made this decision on his own. That is a matter I will find out about when I have an opportunity of getting in touch with Mr. Bushnell.



I am not quite clear on your reference to the board of directors' decision to revoke the decision made by Mr. Bushnell. I understood from conversation with one of the board members—I think it was Mr. Dunsmore—and I read their statement as well, that they felt this statement had been misinterpreted, that the inference of political pressure was there and apparently had been propagated by some people, and rather than have that impression linger, the best way to deal with it was to reverse the decision and reinstate the program. I knew nothing about that until I read about it in the paper. This is the first time I have heard of Mr. Bushnell's statement that his position would be impossible, or something to that effect, if that decision had not been reversed. I remember reading in a press statement that Mr. Bushnell said he accepted the decision of the board of directors as, of course, he naturally would accept the decision of the board of directors, because they are his directors. That is all I know of the question.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Chairman: Mr. Minister, I understood you to say a while ago that you had received no written statement from your colleagues in the cabinet complaining about certain programs. Did you receive, at any time, statements or representations by individual members on the government side, or by a group of members, commenting on certain programs of the C.B.C. and complaining about news commentators?

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): What about the opposition side?

Mr. ROBICHAUD: This is my question.

Mr. NOWLAN: I have received statements; I have received no representations. I have received nothing in writing from anyone, any of my colleagues or anyone, at any time. I have heard statements by various members of the House of Commons—I think representing all political parties—criticizing some programs and commending others. I have never received anything that you could construe, even by a stretch of the imagination, as a representation.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): Did you ever hear of a statement by Mr. Fisher on the use of press gallery members on programs?

Mr. ROBICHAUD: I have not finished my question. Did you receive any representation from a group of members stating that there were a few favoured commentators who were appearing very frequently on the C.B.C. in Montreal?

Mr. NOWLAN: No, I have never received any representation from any group as such. I have received representations from individual members to that effect from time to time in the lobby and meeting them casually in the House of Commons, or something of that kind. But no group—no two—ever spoke to me in concert about any of these things.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: I understand you said you had received representations from individual members—

Mr. NOWLAN: Individual members is correct.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Following such representations from individual members, did you transfer those recommendations to the officials of the C.B.C., or to the management?

Mr. NOWLAN: I cannot answer that question specifically. I have discussed—as I said—time and time again all the problems about the C.B.C. with Mr. Bushnell—formerly with Mr. Ouimet—and I have not any doubt that from time to time I have said that some of the members were complaining about this, or criticizing that.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: So I understand from your reply that at no time you referred to the C.B.C. representations which had been made, even by individual members, complaining about certain individuals being used too often as news commentators?



Mr. NOWLAN: I have just told you that I have discussed these matters with them. I never made any representation about a name. I have heard some of my colleagues criticize Mr. So-and-so, unfortunately. I have not listened to Radio Canada, and I did not know the names; I have forgotten them—but I have undoubtedly told them some of the members were complaining about some people being used too often. I have said that several times, probably—as I have said it, too, about Englishmen, as far as that is concerned. That was part of these general conversations that we would have.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: I do not know if you have to answer these questions. But when you mentioned such cases to the management of the C.B.C., was any investigation held and did you receive any reply?

Mr. NOWLAN: Never. I do not know about the investigation—I never received any reply; I know that.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, can we excuse our committee member as a witness?

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I have one more question, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Taylor is first.

Mr. TAYLOR: As long as you have to answer to parliament for the operation of the C.B.C., and as long as the government subsidizes the C.B.C. to such an extent, I presume there will always be political interference—proper interference—in the C.B.C.?

Mr. NOWLAN: There has never been any interference, as far as I know, in any way, shape or form.

Mr. TAYLOR: Meeting of minds?

Mr. NOWLAN: There has been no meeting of minds. I have conveyed—as I said—every complaint I received in writing to the C.B.C. I undoubtedly have conveyed some—in general—of the verbal representations that I have received.

Mr. TAYLOR: I do not mean of an improper kind at all; I mean, there must always be meetings with C.B.C. officials, for one reason or another, where the government is subsidizing this corporation to such an extent?

Mr. NOWLAN: There are meetings constantly, because we get these representations and recommendations. I have given one—this question of the theatre. I have had a score of them that I have called up about and said, “I want to get more information on this” and asked them to come up and talk to me.

Mr. TAYLOR: It could not be otherwise, could it?

Mr. NOWLAN: It has not been otherwise; and it could not be, unless the minister is simply going to be a rubber stamp and pass things on—which I have not been.

Mr. MCINTOSH: Mr. Minister, you said you were the minister responsible to parliament for the C.B.C.

Mr. NOWLAN: I do not think I said that: Mr. Fisher quoted from the act.

Mr. MCINTOSH: To what degree does your responsibility extend: is it financial only, or is it for external affairs and internal affairs?

Mr. NOWLAN: I wish somebody could answer that question for me, so I would know. It is a question that has bothered me a great deal. I feel it means the ordinary common sense, that parliament is going to vote money for the C.B.C.—parliament—and I have to pilot the estimates through the house; and if I do not deal with complaints which I receive and I do not answer questions which are asked of me by members of the house, I can expect a pretty tough time from the members when I have to come before them and say, “Please give us \$X million”.



I have tried to deal with all questions and, in general, to report to parliament and to individual members in any connection on questions they raised with me about the corporation.

Mr. McINTOSH: Then what is the proper procedure for, say, the Department of External Affairs to protest in regard to a situation such as you mentioned, the Algerian affair, if it is not through the minister responsible to parliament?

Mr. NOWLAN: I am not an authority on international law or protocol respecting departments. Mr. Norman Robertson—one of the most senior and experienced officials in government service—if he had thought it proper, would have phoned me through his minister; but his minister was out of town that afternoon. The Prime Minister was at that time acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, and if the Prime Minister had called me, that, to some, would seem direct political interference; but Mr. Robertson called me—and that may seem to some to be indirect political interference—and asked me to consider it. I said, "All I can do is to pass this on to the management". It was then about half past five, I think—I had been in a cabinet meeting—or it was near six o'clock, and I said I did not know whether I could get Mr. Bushnell or not. But he, being a pretty hard working man, was still in his office and I got him at about a quarter to six. And that was about the end of it, as far as I was concerned.

Mr. FISHER: You said the relationship between you and the C.B.C. should be one of common sense?

Mr. NOWLAN: I was speaking of parliament, members of parliament, in reporting. That is what I understood Mr. McIntosh's question to be. And I would certainly hope my relationship with C.B.C. is one of common sense too.

Mr. FISHER: You have said today you feel, and have expressed to management the opinion that there should be shake-ups lower down?

Mr. NOWLAN: I feel there should be more discipline, yes.

Mr. FISHER: Have you never made a suggestion recently that there should be shake-ups higher up?

Mr. NOWLAN: No, never.

Mr. FISHER: In what way—in the point Mr. McIntosh raised—have you noticed a difference in your relationship to the C.B.C. under the new legislation, as compared with the old—that is, with Mr. Dunton?

The CHAIRMAN: Just a moment; that has nothing to do with it.

Mr. FISHER: It has just as much to do with it as Mr. McIntosh's question.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I think I must protest on Mr. Fisher's behalf. Mr. McIntosh went much further.

The CHAIRMAN: Would you like to take the chair, Mr. Pickersgill?

Mr. NOWLAN: I did not realize there were any implications: apparently there was a land-mine buried in Mr. McIntosh's question, the significance of which I did not get. But the difference in relationship is purely one of personalities; that up to the—I am speaking subject to correction and going back a week or two weeks, or something of that kind; but my recollection is that Mr. Dunton retired as chairman of the board and, to a certain extent, the general manager—because he was the one with whom I dealt prior to his resignation—and I think that took place just about the time the new legislation came into effect. You have the record in front of you.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Just before it was introduced.

Mr. NOWLAN: Just before it was introduced. I had discussed the legislation with Mr. Dunton on numerous occasions. Our relationship was a warm, friendly, personal relationship with a man for whom I had—and still have—a



tremendous regard, and there is no need to amplify that; everyone in this room, I think, knows that his resignation had nothing whatever to do with the government in any way, shape or form. I regretted it very much.

Just about that time the new legislation came in, and after that I dealt with Mr. Ouimet and occasionally—but very occasionally—with Mr. Bushnell, as the vice president, until Mr. Ouimet was taken ill. That is the only change that the legislation brought. Davey—Mr. Dunton—and I talked things over just as frankly and just as fully in the past up to the night of his retirement. I remember the newspaper story which said he turned the key in the lock at nine o'clock at night. I remember the occasion. He came in to see me just before he retired—and we worked very closely together. I never said anything to Mr. Bushnell or to Mr. Ouimet of a different character, a different nature, or a different tone than I used to Mr. Dunton.

The CHAIRMAN: I think you have saved a lot of time on your estimates, Mr. Minister.

Mr. FISHER: I would like to ask Mr. Nowlan the same question I asked Mr. Bushnell on Tuesday. It is on page 562:

In the evidence we have had from Mr. Walker and Mr. Jennings the indications are that they relayed to these persons the idea that there was political influence brought to bear. Do you agree that they could have taken that quite honestly from what was relayed to them?

Mr. NOWLAN: I have not any idea what was relayed to them.

Mr. FISHER: I was assuming you had read the evidence given by Mr. Walker and Mr. Jennings.

Mr. NOWLAN: I still have not any idea what was relayed to them.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw Mr. Nowlan's attention to the question asked by Mr. Brassard at the bottom of page 561 of the evidence, and perhaps the simplest thing would be just to read that question.

The CHAIRMAN: A little louder, please, Mr. Pickersgill.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Yes. Mr. Brassard said:

I would like to ask one more question. Mr. Bushnell has just told Mr. Pickersgill that in the discussion between himself and Mr. Nowlan that the latter conveyed to him the impression that many programs were displeasing to a great many people. I wonder if that precise program, Preview Commentary, had been mentioned during that discussion?

And Mr. Bushnell replied to that:

I could not truthfully answer that.

Now, I am not making anything of that answer; I recognize the atmosphere there was that day, and I am not making anything of it at all. The question I want to ask Mr. Nowlan is: since Mr. Bushnell, obviously, was answering about whether there had been any discussions, could Mr. Nowlan say whether there were—to the best of his recollection?

Mr. NOWLAN: I could almost answer the same way Mr. Bushnell did—I cannot truthfully answer. I mean by that, to be absolutely, meticulously correct. I imagine—in fact, I would be quite certain—that I have from time to time mentioned that program to him, as I did many other programs, sometimes commending it and sometimes criticizing it, and sometimes, possibly, passing on observations I had heard from others; and I do not think there is any doubt I did it. But I cannot recall any specific time or any specific comment I made with respect to it.



Mr. PICKERSGILL: Well, can you recollect any occasion on which any of your colleagues—and by your colleagues I mean your colleagues in the ministry—took exception to any of these Preview Commentary programs, to you?

Mr. NOWLAN: I cannot recall any specific one, Mr. Pickersgill. I have a feeling that probably some of them did from time to time; but I cannot recall anything. But I daresay—after all, we have been in power now for two years; we have been together for two years and there have been discussions about everything under the sun, and I have not any doubt that at some time somebody has mentioned one program or another, either commending it or criticizing it.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: But there is nothing that remains in your mind?

Mr. NOWLAN: There is nothing that remains in my mind in any way, shape or form; nothing that could be construed, by the wildest stretch of the imagination, as a representation of any sort, shape, kind or description.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fisher, you have a final question?

Mr. FISHER: No. If we are through, I would just like to express our appreciation to the minister for the evidence we have had.

Mr. NOWLAN: I would express my appreciation for the fact that you have allowed me to come down here.

The CHAIRMAN: You are a member of the committee.

Mr. NOWLAN: I know that; but I was in this awkward situation—I had only been at one meeting, and that is a time which you will remember.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: On that occasion you were very convincing to the minority.

Mr. NOWLAN: I hope I am convincing to all at the moment.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Mr. NOWLAN: I want to say, I did not want to come down, walk in and start talking, because somebody would think, "Well, he must feel he has something to explain, or something to justify". This, to my mind, is something which I do not understand—somebody has made a mountain out of a mole hill; and I was very, very glad to have the committee ask me to come in so I would have a reason for appearing here and making an explanation.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. Now may we get back to the agenda?

Mr. NOWLAN: May I retire, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes thank you very much.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: You are a member of the committee.

Mr. NOWLAN: I know; and I am also a member of some other committees.

The CHAIRMAN: There are some answers to questions. There was a question asked by Mr. Dorion on June 9. He asked if any letter had ever been written to producers at Montreal asking that loans from performers be repaid.

May I dispense with the answer and put it in as an appendix, or would you like it read?

Agreed. (See Appendix A).

The CHAIRMAN: There was also a question by Mr. Art. Smith on June 9: How much has importation of American films been reduced on C.B.C. networks and stations.

Dispense, and include as an appendix?

Agreed. (See Appendix B).



The CHAIRMAN: Then a question by Mr. McCleave on June 18. The question: overall amount paid to members of press gallery at Ottawa for contributions to national news bulletin over a period of one month. Report to cover news inserts only and to include number of contributions.

Dispense and include?

Agreed. (See Appendix C).

Mr. FORTIN: On a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman: I would like to say that on Tuesday last I was in attendance at the committee, and my name does not appear. I came in late: that is the answer.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall have it corrected.

Mr. JOHNSON: On a question of privilege, before we go further: On June 9 I asked a question on films of Mr. Bushnell and Mr. Ouimet, and it was agreed that the names of all film distributors with whom the C.B.C. had contracted for film rental or purchase for the French TV network during the years 1957-58 and 1958-59 would be given to me, together with the total amount of money paid to each company.

The CHAIRMAN: I recall that.

Mr. JOHNSON: I see here, on reading page 493 of June 22 that as appendix B there are the names of the companies, without having the amount paid to each one, which was specifically promised to me by Mr. Ouimet on June 9.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall request that again, Mr. Johnson. Is that satisfactory?

Mr. JOHNSON: Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: May we get back to the agenda.

Mr. FISHER: What ruling did you get on my motion?

The CHAIRMAN: We have not had a ruling on it yet and the clerk of the committee has not been able to get a ruling on it. Could we hold that over?

If it is agreeable, may we get back to our agenda? There was a hold-over, as you recall—the Smith motion Part A item No. 2—on programming, the analysis of costs required by the committee. We have them here and they will be distributed. They are for the first week of March, for the English networks; the fourth week of March for the French networks. That, gentlemen, will be distributed. It will be the end of our meeting today, if it is agreeable with you all.

Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: As I must leave for London, Ontario—

Mr. JOHNSON: When do we meet again?

The CHAIRMAN: We will reconvene on Tuesday morning at 9.30. Thank you very much.



THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THAT PART OF THE  
COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED IN  
THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

ON TROUVERA CI-DESSOUS LE TEXTE DE LA PARTIE DES DÉLIBÉRATIONS  
DU COMITÉ QUI S'EST DÉROULÉE EN FRANÇAIS

COMITÉ DE LA RADIODIFFUSION

2 juillet 1959

(Page No. 575)

M. DORION: Monsieur le président, j'ai lu avec beaucoup d'attention les rapports qui ont été faits des deux dernières séances et je dois dire qu'étant avocat depuis au delà de 32 ans, jamais je n'ai vu un tel genre de preuve faite devant aucun tribunal.

Monsieur Pickersgill voudrait qu'on continue avec certains témoins qui ont été entendus l'autre jour. Or, pas un de ces témoins n'a été capable de déterminer un seul fait, d'apporter l'ombre d'une seule véritable preuve pour démontrer qu'il y avait eu ingérence politique.

Ces gens-là avaient été disciplinés ou plutôt avaient donné leur démission et, à mon humble avis, nous n'aurions pas dû nous occuper de ce problème-là. Nous nous en sommes occupés beaucoup trop, et j'invite les honorables membres du comité à lire un article très objectif qui a été publié dans le *Financial Post*.

S'il y avait une corporation au monde qui "marchait" de la même manière que Radio-Canada, alors que des employés dictent aux employeurs ce qu'il faut faire, pas une corporation ne pourrait exister pendant un an.

\* \* \* \*

(Page No. 576)

Or, nous sommes en présence d'une chicane interne et l'on veut activer cette chicane. On veut semer l'anarchie en tendant de faire revenir des témoins qui ont porté des accusations qu'ils n'ont pas été capables de prouver.

Si l'on tenait compte des qu'en dira-t-on des journaux et d'autres... vous lirez, par exemple, certains journaux de Montréal où, pendant des jours et des jours, il est dit que tel député libéral mène Radio-Canada, qu'il faut en avoir les mots de passe pour y faire entrer les employés et faire entrer un tel ou un tel sur les programmes... si nous avons suivi votre ligne de conduite, si nous avons adopté votre attitude, nous aurions relevé ces points.

Nous avons le respect de la loi, et nous avons le respect de ce que signifie le mot preuve.

A mon humble avis, cette affaire n'aurait pas dû être soumise au comité. C'était une question de régie interne, et aucune preuve d'ingérence politique et pas même l'ombre d'une preuve n'a été présentée malgré que M. Pickersgill ait posé des questions suggestives, dans lesquelles il accusait le premier ministre d'être intervenu. Il n'y a pas un tribunal qui aurait toléré cela. Et on a laissé l'impression, dans les journaux, que le premier ministre serait intervenu soit directement soit indirectement, alors qu'il n'y a pas l'ombre d'une preuve dans les témoignages qui ont été entendus, une ombre de preuve qui ait été faite à cet effet.

La seule personne qui était en mesure de répondre aux questions et la seule personne sur laquelle on s'appuyait, c'était M. Bushnell. Et M. Bushnell est venu mettre fin à ces rumeurs. Peu importe les motifs qui l'avaient inspiré et ce que pense, d'ailleurs, M. Pickersgill...

Pensez-vous que l'on est toujours satisfait des programmes de Radio-Canada? Pensez-vous que, lorsqu'on n'est pas satisfait, on n'a pas le droit de le dire? Pensez-vous que nous n'avons pas le droit de le dire, nous qui représentons le peuple? Il y a toujours une limite. Cela devient de l'hypocrisie.



Moi, je le dirai tant et aussi longtemps que je serai député, au nom de mes électeurs, si je ne suis pas satisfait de tel ou tel programme, et je ferai les représentations qui s'imposent, quand de telles représentations devront être faites, et je ne pense pas manquer à mon mandat en agissant ainsi. Je ne demande pas qu'on se débarrasse des individus, mais il y en a qui se permettent d'émettre des opinions et qui tout de même sont payés par l'État.

Je crois que cette motion-là est absolument "hors d'ordre", que cette demande est absolument "hors d'ordre".

Et d'ailleurs, comme M. MacIntosh, l'a dit, le "steering committee" ne peut pas nous imposer quoi que ce soit. Il peut prendre des décisions, après quoi le comité décide, et je trouve que cela fait assez longtemps que l'on joue son petit jeu ou que l'on prend l'allure de gens qui n'ont rien à voir là-dedans, qui ne peuvent toucher à cet organisme, alors que nous sommes appelés à voter 57 millions de dollars ou 63 millions de dollars pour faire jouer cet organisme, pour faire "marcher" cet organisme, où des gens qui n'ont aucune espèce de responsabilité vis-à-vis le peuple ont le droit de dire tout ce qu'ils pensent et tout ce qu'ils veulent, de ces gens qui ne pourraient même pas se faire élire comme bedeau dans leur paroisse.

Vous verrez les journaux de Montréal et vous verrez quels sont les députés libéraux qui, chaque jour, sont pris à partie.

\* \* \* \*

(Page No. 580)

M. TREMBLAY: Monsieur le président, à ce sujet-là, je voudrais moi aussi exprimer mon opinion. J'ai contrairement à mon habitude, gardé le silence l'autre jour à l'occasion de l'enquête des trois témoins qui étaient présents. J'ai gardé un silence respectueux, qui est devenu vers la fin un silence amusé.

Je crois qu'il y a eu, au départ, une erreur en laissant le comité de la radio inviter ces messieurs à comparaître. Nous nous étions entendus au départ sur un ordre du jour que nous avons accepté ici, lequel nous devons suivre dans les délibérations du comité.

Nous nous étions aussi entendus pour ne pas entrer dans le domaine des personnalités, et toutes les tentatives qui ont été faites à cet égard ont été immédiatement considérées comme "hors d'ordre" par le président.

Nous avons entendu trois témoins: d'abord, M. Peers représentant lui-même, M. Gillis et M. Trotter qui ont été incapables de prouver ce qu'ils devaient prouver. Nous avons ensuite entendu M. Walker, M. Jennings. Je ne sais pas pour quel motif ils ont, en définitive, fait une charge contre M. Bushnell en rapportant ses propos d'une façon que je ne veux pas ici qualifier.

Il y a eu ensuite M. Bushnell qui a fait une dénégation catégorique, disant qu'il n'y avait pas eu d'ingérence politique d'aucune sorte. Je crois que nous aurions du nous en tenir là...

\* \* \* \*

M. TREMBLAY: Ça se trouve, monsieur Pickersgill.

\* \* \* \*

Alors, monsieur le président, depuis ce temps-là, les trois personnes intéressées ont été réinstallées et je ne vois pas pourquoi nous poursuivrions l'enquête, sinon pour savoir les vues de certaines personnes qui ont manifestement des intentions démagogiques. Ces personnes prennent le prétexte de la liberté de parole, de la liberté d'expression pour faire diversion, pour entreprendre une tentative de diversion qui a comme but de faire oublier les fins véritables de la radio, lesquelles fins sont pourtant de faire enquête sur l'administration de Radio-Canada, en tant qu'elle appelle des demandes de crédit.



Ce qui nous intéresse, nous, c'est de savoir comment est administré l'argent que nous remettons à Radio-Canada ou que nous votons à Radio-Canada.

Je dois exprimer ma désapprobation au sujet des réponses que nous avons reçues à date, lesquelles ont été vagues. On nous a traités très souvent avec insolence. C'est ainsi, par exemple, que lorsque j'ai demandé à un officier de Radio-Canada quels étaient les critères de la Société en ce qui concerne les programmes d'éducation, on m'a répondu d'une façon vague et d'une façon insolente.

Je viens au point, monsieur Robichaud. Soyez sans inquiétude. On allègue aussi le danger qu'il pourrait y avoir à Radio-Canada, du fait de cet incident qui est survenu de la démission des trois messieurs dont j'ai parlé plus haut; on allègue un danger, mais je crois que le grand danger qui guette Radio-Canada, c'est le danger d'incompétence et c'est ce que nous essayons de voir au comité, c'est ce que nous devons essayer de voir.

Je crois que le fait d'interroger plus longuement d'autres témoins, les témoins que nous avons interrogés et d'autres témoins, ne prouverait absolument rien de ce qui a été établi lors des dernières réunions du comité. Je ne vois pas du tout ce que l'on pourrait prouver, sinon des ouï-dire, comme on l'a fait avant-hier.

Pour ma part, je suis opposé à ce que l'on poursuive l'enquête, non pas en principe,—si l'on avait le temps, je ne verrais aucune sorte d'objection à ce que l'on poursuive l'enquête, mais comme le temps qui nous est alloué avant la fin de la session est limité, il faut donc alors se limiter.

(Page No. 581)

M. ROBICHAUD: Il reste encore un mois.

M. TREMBLAY: C'est bien peu, monsieur Robichaud, un mois pour aller au fond de Radio-Canada. Alors, je crois que nous devrions disposer de l'ordre du jour.

Si, j'en suis absolument positif, cette enquête du comité, s'il est permis de la continuer, d'aller plus loin dans l'enquête qui a été commencée, je ferai moi-même la demande pour que l'on fasse enquête sur certains aspects de Radio-Canada, réseau français, et que des gens qui ont la responsabilité de l'information publique et de ce que l'on appelle l'éducation populaire, si nous voulons procéder, si, en dépit de l'opposition de certains membres du comité, on veut poursuivre plus loin, je ne m'opposerai pas, mais il faudra que ces gens-là soient entendus.

Mais, par exemple, je me réserve le droit de demander que soient assignés les gens qui sont responsables du domaine de l'information, du secteur administratif du réseau français et dont nous avons à nous plaindre.

Je parle ici à titre de représentant du peuple. Nous avons à nous plaindre du domaine de l'information.

C'est ainsi, par exemple, qu'avant hier soir, en rapportant les délibérations du comité de la radiodiffusion, Radio-Canada, lors des nouvelles à 11 heures le soir à la télévision, a coupé l'interview d'un journaliste de Montréal, au moment où on allait rapporter les déclarations de M. Bushnell à propos du fait qu'il n'y avait eu aucune ingérence politique, ce qui a laissé les gens sous l'impression qu'il y avait eu ingérence politique et que M. Bushnell n'aurait pas nié cela.

Je tiens à formuler ici mon opposition à ce que nous poursuivions plus loin dans ce domaine, mais si en dépit de cette opposition le comité veut poursuivre, je demanderai personnellement qu'on assigne ici des gens qui sont responsables de l'information au réseau français.

\* \* \* \*



(Page No. 582)

M. BRASSARD (*Lapointe*): Monsieur le président, je crois que la principale raison qui justifie nos adversaires, ceux qui s'opposent à ce que nous demandions ici à M. Hallman de venir témoigner devant nous, que le principal argument qu'ils invoquent, c'est que nous avons entendu seulement du oui-dire aux deux séances de mardi dernier.

Je crois qu'il y a certains juristes ou certains esprits légaux qui tentent de vouloir prendre le comité pour une salle de tribunal, et je crois qu'il y a plus de latitude dans un comité de la Chambre des communes.

Voici un employé qui nous dit avoir entendu des fonctionnaires supérieures immédiats, avoir entendu un haut fonctionnaire immédiat de Radio-Canada qu'il y avait eu des menaces à certains employés si tels programmes n'étaient pas annulés. Je crois que c'est plus que du oui-dire et que nous devrions avoir la permission d'entendre M. Hallman.

\* \* \* \*

(Page No. 583)

D'autre part, on nous a dit que M. Bushnell, M. Tremblay nous a dit que M. Bushnell avait écarté la question d'ingérence politique dans sa déclaration. On nous a dit aussi que M. Bushnell avait téléphoné à M. Ouimet, du *Celebrity Club*, à Toronto, pour lui dire que sa tête à lui, président, et aussi celle de M. Bushnell étaient en danger si le programme ne tombait pas.

Je crois qu'il s'agit là de choses sérieuses et qu'il ne s'agit pas seulement de régie intérieure, comme le dit M. Tremblay. Je crois qu'il s'agit de choses extérieures. On craint de faire dommage à Radio-Canada, mais on ne fait pas dommage à Radio-Canada en voulant étendre cette enquête. On fera plutôt dommage au gouvernement et c'est pour cette raison...

M. DORION: C'est très gentil à vous.

\* \* \* \*

(Page No. 585)

M. PAUL: Voici, monsieur le président. En écoutant la motion que nous a présentée M. Pickersgill, il aurait peut-être été intéressant de savoir ce qu'il entend prouver en invitant M. Hallman à comparaître devant le comité et, suivant les raisons qu'expose le député de Bonavista-Twillingate, s'il arrivait que M. Hallman cite d'autres noms d'employés de Radio-Canada, qui auraient été mis au courant des rumeurs qui circulaient, lesquelles ont fait la base des séances d'enquêtes de mardi dernier, il faudrait par la suite inviter également ces membres-là à venir témoigner devant le comité.

Je crois, monsieur le président, que nous avons perdu assez de temps jusqu'ici avec ce problème, parce qu'effectivement rien de concret ni de précis n'a été... aucune accusation précise n'a été portée par MM. Gillis, Trotter et Peers, et je crois que, même si nous ne sommes pas devant un tribunal de justice, nous devons observer certaines règles élémentaires de la preuve pour maintenir et ensuite orienter les membres du comité de la présente enquête.

L'honorable député de Lapointe, M. Brassard, mentionnant avant l'ajournement que nous devons donner beaucoup de latitude à certaines plaintes et rumeurs qui doivent circuler à Radio-Canada...

M. BRASSARD: Ce n'est pas cela que j'ai dit; il ne s'agit pas de plaintes ni de rumeurs, mais de façon de procéder.

M. PAUL: De façon de procéder. Si nous invitons tous ces témoins-là pour écouter les plaintes et rumeurs, je crois que cette enquête-là ne se terminera jamais.

Comment se fait-il que l'on ait permis à certains témoins certaines insinuations, alors que l'on refuse ce droit à certains membres du comité?



Je comprends que cette enquête fait peut-être les délices des journalistes, mais je crois que notre travail consiste à étudier les crédits de Radio-Canada, lesquels méritent beaucoup plus notre attention que l'enquête qui a fait l'objet des délibérations de mardi dernier.

Je crois que cette motion ne devrait pas être acceptée, parce qu'aucun but précis n'a été mentionné par M. Pickersgill et nous retomberions ainsi de Charybde en Scylla, en attribuant ou en obtenant seulement les versions qui ont été données, à l'effet qu'il n'y a eu aucune ingérence politique de la part de qui que ce soit dans les affaires de Radio-Canada.

\* \* \* \*

(Page No. 592)

M. TREMBLAY: Monsieur le président, je suis fort étonné qu'on ramène ici ce matin cette question dont nous avons disposé. Nous avons demandé des renseignements concernant la part qui est payée par les commanditaires des programmes commandités. Je ne change pas d'avis à ce sujet. Nous avons le droit de connaître exactement ce que payent les commanditaires dans les programmes commandités.

Nous sommes ici, je le répète, responsables de l'emploi des deniers publics et nous avons le droit de savoir absolument quel est le rapport entre ce que nous payons et ce que nous obtenons de la société Radio-Canada.

Je tiens à affirmer, après bien d'autres et après mon collègue de Bellechasse, ce matin, que nous ne sommes pas satisfaits de Radio-Canada et que nous nous inquiétons de savoir ce que Radio-Canada fait de l'argent des contribuables.

Il est bien entendu, comme le faisait remarquer tout à l'heure M. Pickersgill, qu'il y a un bureau des directeurs, qu'il y a là des fonctionnaires en qui raisonnablement nous pouvons avoir confiance, mais il vient un temps où il est nécessaire de reviser la politique à l'endroit des fonctionnaires et d'étudier le comportement de ces fonctionnaires.

J'ai confiance aux fonctionnaires du gouvernement, mais je crois que dans le cas de Radio-Canada, il y a des abus et ce sont ces abus-là que nous voulons dénoncer, et c'est aussi pour savoir quel est réellement le fondement des griefs dont le peuple nous a saisis, dont les citoyens nous ont saisis, c'est en fonction de tout cela que nous désirons connaître ce que Radio-Canada fait de l'argent des contribuables.

C'est pourquoi je désire déclarer que, formellement, je m'oppose à ce que l'on considère le problème parce que je maintiens que nous avons droit de savoir quelle est la proportion payée par les compagnies dans les programmes commandités, afin de déterminer si réellement nous obtenons des programmes d'une qualité raisonnable et qui soient vraiment en fonction de ce que ces programmes coûtent aux contribuables canadiens.

\* \* \* \*

(Page No. 597)

M. FORTIN: Il y a tellement de motions qui ont été faites, je ne sais pas trop à laquelle rattacher mes remarques.

Voici, la demande que M. Pickersgill a faite d'ajourner cette question-là, demande formulée par Radio-Canada de reconsidérer notre demande, me laisse l'impression d'une demande qui est faite dans le seul but de retarder la production des documents. Ceci prend l'allure, comme cela se produit en droit, de procédure dilatoire.

La session s'achève. Si nous reconsidérons notre décision, je crois que Radio-Canada ne fera que gagner du temps et, la session achevant, nous n'obtiendrons pas les documents demandés. Je suis en faveur du maintien de la décision que le comité a prise il y a un mois.

\* \* \* \*



(Page No. 598)

M. TREMBLAY: Monsieur le président, je pense bien qu'on tente encore de faire de la diversion, qu'on se sert de la pratique de la diversion. Nous avons demandé des renseignements il y a quelques semaines, nous ne les avons pas obtenus, et pourtant, nous les avons demandés assez simplement, nous avons fait voir que nous avions besoin d'obtenir ces renseignements.

Je maintiens que nous avons le droit d'obtenir ces renseignements et, si nous acceptons de reconsidérer la question, je pense que Radio-Canada sera autorisée à reconsidérer toutes les demandes que nous avons faites par ailleurs et pour lesquelles nous n'avons pas encore obtenu de réponses. Je maintiens que nous devons refuser de reconsidérer la question si, tant il est vrai que le jugement du comité a une certaine valeur, nous ne devons pas revenir sur ce qui a été décidé par la majorité.

\* \* \* \*

(Page No. 608)

M. BRASSARD (*Lapointe*): Monsieur le président, si l'honorable ministre avait l'obligeance de nous faire connaître ses commentaires sur les deux questions suivantes, je l'apprécierais beaucoup.

Je comprends difficilement que la société Radio-Canada ait repris à son service trois personnes qui ont formulé des accusations à l'effet que l'indépendance de la société Radio-Canada était en danger. Si les accusations n'étaient pas fondées, je crois que des mesures disciplinaires devraient être prises, et si elles étaient fondées, je suis surpris, dans l'un et l'autre cas, que ces trois employés aient pu reprendre leur fonction.

Deuxièmement: il s'agit de la décision du Conseil d'administration de renverser la décision de M. Bushnell, prise tard dans la soirée du 24 juin. Le même soir, à l'émission de 11 heures, M. Bushnell,—je ne sais pas quelles ont été ses paroles exactes, mais c'est l'impression qu'il nous a laissée, de toute façon,—il a dit en substance que si sa décision de faire tomber le programme n'avait pas été renversée par le Conseil d'administration, il ne lui aurait pas été possible de continuer dans ses fonctions.

Si le ministre avait l'obligeance de commenter ces deux points, je l'apprécierais beaucoup.



## APPENDIX "A"

Mr. Dorion M.P.—(June 9)—asked if any letter had ever been written to Producers at Montreal asking that loans from performers be repaid.

The Corporation has looked into this matter and found that in March, 1958, a complaint was made by l'Union des Artistes to the Corporation at Montreal about money owing from producers to artists. The Corporation immediately asked for the names of those involved and the amounts outstanding. The union said it would prefer to have the CBC send a letter to its producers which would establish a deadline for the payment of these personal obligations. If at the expiration of this deadline any debts had not been paid, the union would give the names of the producers concerned to the Corporation.

A letter was accordingly sent to all producers telling them that all money borrowed from artists was to be returned by the first of May. At the end of this period the Corporation approached the union to ask if any debts remained unpaid. The union advised that they had no defaulters to report. The matter was accordingly considered closed.

No representations concerning matters of this kind have been received from the union on any other occasions.

## APPENDIX "B"

Mr. Smith, M.P. (*Calgary South*)—(June 9)—How much has importation of American films been reduced on CBC networks and stations?

While there is variation between individual stations dependant upon the season of the year, the best indication would be a comparison between the situation in 1957 when we reached an overall network peak of about 32% to the past fall-winter network schedule which was an even 25% American film.

This figure it is expected is just about at the point of balance where no great reduction can be expected.

## APPENDIX "C"

Mr. McCleave, M.P.—(June 18)—asked for the overall amount paid to members of Press Gallery at Ottawa for contributions to National News Bulletin over a period of one month. This statement to cover news inserts only and to include number of contributions.

For the month of April, 1959, the number of Press Gallery members contributing news inserts was 12 and the total number of contributions was 59. Total payments for radio \$855 and for television \$315.